

Connecticut Guardian

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Katrina



**Hurricane
brings
flood of
volunteers,
supplies to
Connecticut
armories:
Units head
to
Louisiana**

***Inside:
State wins
Round
Two,
looses
Round
Three in
Battle to
save A-10s***

Flooded roadways can be seen as the Coast Guard conducts initial Hurricane Katrina damage assessment overflights in New Orleans on Aug. 29. (U.S. Coast Guard photograph by Petty Officer 2nd Class Kyle Niemi)

Commander's Corner



M. JODI RELL
GOVERNOR

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106

Governor Rell Announces Appointment of Gen. Thad Martin as Adjutant General

Governor M. Jodi Rell today announced the appointment of U.S. Air Force Brigadier General Thad Martin as Connecticut's Adjutant General. A former Assistant Adjutant General for Air and Vice Wing Commander of the Connecticut Air National Guard's 103rd Fighter Wing based at Bradley International Airport, General Martin has been the state's Acting Adjutant General since early spring.

"I am tremendously grateful for the example of military leadership that General Martin has provided in the last few months as our state fought the ill-considered and potentially ruinous recommendations to close the U.S. Navy submarine base in Groton and the Air National Guard's 103rd Fighter Wing," Governor Rell said. "Especially on the Air National Guard issue General Martin has been a marvel of organization, a source of inspiration to his staff, and a more than able aide to me. I am very pleased that he will remain in the role of Adjutant General on a permanent basis.

"While we won the fight to save the sub base the battle to preserve our Air National Guard unit goes on, and there is no one I want at my side more than General Martin," the Governor said. "It is a fight we intend to win."

General Martin said, "I am pleased the Governor has asked me to assume this role on a permanent basis. The men and women of the Connecticut National Guard are some of the finest in the nation. Not only am I honored to serve as their leader, but as the Governor's choice to be Adjutant General in this great state."

The General's active military service began in 1977. Following his commissioning through Officer Candidate School in 1980 he completed formal training as an Aircraft Maintenance Officer. Through 12 years of active service the General held several squadron- and wing-level assignments. After joining the Connecticut National Guard in 1990 he held command positions at the squadron and group level and completed a statutory tour with the National Guard Bureau.

A 1979 graduate of Park College (BA in Management) and a 1985 graduate of Golden Gate University (MPA in Public Administration), General Martin's military decorations and awards include the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal with two bronze oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Commendation Medal with two bronze oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Achievement Medal, the Joint Meritorious Service Award and the National Defense Service Medal with a bronze star.

General Martin, 49, and his wife, Kerry, have two sons, Thomas and Ryan. They reside in Suffield.



"Again, let me say thank you to the people of Connecticut. Once again you've shown your generosity and willingness to step up and help your neighbors and I say thank you."

Gov. M. Jodi Rell
Sept. 7, in response to the
outpouring of donations
for Hurricane Katrina
victims

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First Company Governors Foot Guard

Second Company Governors Foot Guard

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Hurricane Katrina brings out the best in Connecticut's Soldiers, Airmen, citizens

Armories overwhelmed with disaster relief donations

SGT. 1ST CLASS DEBBI NEWTON
STATE PUBLIC AFFAIRS NCO

When Gov. M. Jodi Rell sent out a press release on Wednesday, Aug. 31 announcing that six Connecticut National Guard armories around the state would be open as Hurricane Katrina disaster relief collection points, no one was ready for the hurricane that was about to hit.

"We are all horrified by the heartbreaking photos, video and news stories from Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, and many people have friends or family in the affected areas," Rell said. "In any event, I know the people of Connecticut care deeply and want to help in any way possible."

And care and help they did!

People started showing up at the Hartford armory at 7:15 the next morning, bringing with them cases of bottled water, blankets, non-perishable foods, batteries, diapers and cat and dog food. Even members of the media coming to cover the story brought donations with them.

In Hartford, the response was so overwhelming that within three hours, the collection point had been moved from the drill shed floor to the side loading dock where cars could be pulled up, unloaded and be back on their way. But even that proved to be too small. And the story was the same at the five other armories in Putnam, New London, Waterbury, New Haven and Stratford.

Two days later, the governor put out an urgent plea for volunteers to come to each of the collection sites to help sort, box and palletize the donations.

"No one initially envisioned the scope of the operation," said Lt. Col. William Adams, director of logistics for the Connecticut Army National Guard. "Our initial guidance was to 'send a truck out to each of the armories every other day.' We are now running six separate armory/warehouses across the state!"

The guidance of one truck to each armory every other day turned out to be a gross underestimation. By the end of the ninth day, 61 tractor-trailer truckloads of supplies had left Connecticut and Adams estimated there could be at least another 60 truckloads still sitting in the six armories.

Collections were halted at the end of the ninth day.

The number of volunteers who answered the governor's call to action also took everyone by surprise. Many people took days off from work or gave up their Labor Day weekend to help. On Labor Day alone, nearly 1,000 civilian and military volunteers stormed the Hartford armory to help.

By this time, people had returned from their final summer vacation, had the kids back in school or ready to go back, and the donations and volunteers increased. No longer was it a simple operation of pulling three cars at a time up to the loading dock, unloading them, backing them out and pulling in the next three cars.

Employees who parked in the rear parking lots of the Hartford armory had to find other places to park as tables and empty boxes moved into their spots. Soon, those empty boxes were full and had to be replaced.

All armories were to be open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., but the response at the Hartford armory was so tremendous that people who stopped by as early as 5:30 a.m. were not turned away, and the armory remained open for drop-offs and volunteers until 7 p.m. each day.

The governor had held a press conference on the Hartford drill shed floor on the first day of collections, but came back several times to thank the volunteers personally. On one such visit, it seemed as if her staff had to drag her away from the volunteers and back to the office.

"I said thank you to so many people and they said, 'You know, I wish I could do more.' It's one of the nicest efforts I've ever seen."

By this time, cars were driving in a circle around the armory with volunteers going right up to the cars and unloading them for the donor. The drivers never even had to get out of their cars. A system of numbered tables was set up so that as donations came in they could be immediately sorted by category, boxed up and palletized for shipping.

It was organized chaos at its best!

And it was hard to put a face on the volunteer force — they came from all walks of life.

The student in the Catholic School uniform worked next to the Hindu; the guy with dreadlocks worked next to the retired insurance executive; the nurse worked next to the athlete; and the legislator worked next to the homeless. They were truly a most

diverse group working toward one common humanitarian goal.

Larry Anglin, a member of Gospel Assembly Church in Manchester, had already spent three days at the Hartford armory and planned to stay on for as many days as he was needed.

"It's ultimately about giving back in God's name," said Anglin. "It's about being able to make a difference. We have every nationality out here, every religious background, every ethnic background, and there has not been one argument, not one disagreement, not one complaint about so much as another person's breath. It's been an excited group with an optimistic attitude and it's really become a relationship amongst all of us here."

"It has been truly amazing, and that's putting it mildly, about the compassion and support from the public and especially the volunteers, many who come in to help day after day," said Col. (Ret.) Daniel McHale, Task Force Katrina commander. "The energy level is just unbelievable and the donations are beyond what I was expecting."

McHale also could not say enough about the military personnel around the state that were part of the operation. He said the Task Force tried to stay away from the full time staff and the units whenever possible, but many of them wanted to be part of the effort and even came in on their days off to help.

"They were outstanding, truly outstanding," he said. "We have had nothing but praise from all of the civilian volunteers about the professionalism of our Soldiers and Airmen, especially the forklift drivers. They have been going non-stop since the operation started, putting in 13 to 14 hours a day."

According to Adam, by the end of the ninth day, nearly half of the trucks that went out were shipped Connecticut National Guard units to include the 143rd Forward Support Battalion and the 1048th Truck Company. The 1048th eventually shipped out as a unit headed for Louisiana, but along with its own equipment, loaded up its trucks with

relief supplies to drop off in Mississippi on their way to Louisiana.

Water was being shipped directly to McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey and the Air Force was flying it to the affected areas. Other items were being shipped to a regional FEMA warehouse in Jackson, Mississippi.

Many privately and publicly owned and operated trucks were also used for the trucking requirements.

In addition to the packing and trucking logistical requirements being met by Adams and his staff, the DOL was also responsible for the logistical requirements of all the units being deployed south to assist with the relief efforts, as well as those units deploying to, or returning from, overseas deployments.

"I was shocked and overwhelmed at the same time," said Brig. Gen. Thaddeus Martin, adjutant general and commander of the Connecticut National Guard. "It was interesting to see how the National Guard plugged into this relief effort. We had 400 to 1,000 volunteers throughout the state on any given day, all working with the National Guard. They sorted, boxed and shipped tons and tons and tons of supplies."

In addition to the relief effort here in state, 250 Soldiers and Airmen were deployed to Louisiana to assist officials there. Martin said he expects more to be called.

"As this mission continues, I anticipate some of the unique skill sets of some of the specialized units will be called upon," he said, although he was quick to add he had nothing hard to base that on.

"Our people responded in a rapid and professional manner," he said. From the people who had to get the Soldiers and Airmen prepared to leave to those that were deploying, he said he was pleased with their response.

"They were on the road within 48 hours of being notified they were needed. They clearly understood their mission, were adequately trained to accomplish their mission and prepared."

Martin also pointed out that this was the first time the Connecticut National Guard and a true "purple" deployment, saying that "roughly 20 percent of the QRF is Air Guard."

In addition to the Quick Reaction Force and the 1048th Truck Company, elements of the 14th Civil Support Team, 143rd Military Police Company, 134th Military Police Company and the Security Forces Squadron have all deployed in support of hurricane relief efforts.



Volunteers showed up by the hundreds to assist with Hurricane Katrina relief collections. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debby Newton, State PA NCO)

Commission votes not to save Bradley A-10s: Fight still on

MAJ. GEORGE H. WORRALL III
103RD FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

In a hearing Aug. 26, the BRAC commission voted not to change the Secretary of Defense’s recommendation to strip Bradley Air National Guard Base of its A-10s.

Departing from two-and-a-half days of deliberations that included reading motions and striking or adding individual words prior to voting, the commission simply listed final counts of aircraft on slides.

Following the slides, commissioners would read parts of motions and refer to numbered motions, which were not available to the public or media, and vote.

Although there was often confusion among the commissioners about which motion they were voting on and what the motions meant, the slide relating to Bradley left no question the commission intended to leave the “Flying Yankees” with no aircraft to fly.

“Bradley was recommended (by the Secretary of Defense) at zero (A-10 aircraft), and we did not change that,” said retired Gen. Lloyd W. Newton, BRAC Commissioner.

“And, Mr. Chairman, if we have no further discussion or amendments, I would like to offer a motion that we accept the secretary’s recommendation as amended for these locations.”

As she promised during an August visit to Bradley, Gov. M. Jodi Rell did not accept either the DoD or the BRAC commission’s recommendation.

“This unit – and its jets – belongs in Connecticut and that is where it is going to stay,” said the governor Aug. 10.

“I have already told Defense Secretary Rumsfeld he cannot move this unit without my permission, and he is not going to get it.”

Following the BRAC commission vote on Aug. 26, the governor conferred with her staff and by the following Monday had a suit filed in federal court to stop the BRAC commission from continuing the process.

The next day U.S. District Judge Alfred Covello issued a temporary restraining order preventing the BRAC commission from forwarding the Bradley realignment recommendation to the President. The judge

A-10 BASES (ANG)					
MCI	Base	Wing	Curr Acft	DOD #	BRAC #
42.1	Selfridge ANGB, MI	127 WG	F-16	18	24
42.1	Ft Smith, AR	188 FW	F-16	0	18
41.4	Boise, ID	124 WG	A-10	18	18
39.4	Martin State (Baltimore), MD	175 WG	A-10	18	18
37.7	Willow Grove, PA	111 FW	A-10	0	0
35.5	Barnes, MA	104 FW	A-10	24	0
35.4	Bradley, CT	103 FW	A-10	0	0
30.5	Kellogg, MI	110 FW	A-10	0	0
TOTAL					78

The above chart shows what the BRAC Commission is recommending as it pertains to A-10s in the Air National Guard.

scheduled a hearing for Sept. 7 to hear the case.

“I have asked Attorney General Blumenthal to file suit today (Aug. 29) in the United States District Court with a single purpose: keeping the 103rd Fighter Wing Air Base at Bradley Field open and fully functional,” said Gov. Rell.

“Today, we are stepping up to protect and defend these brave men and women. This is going to be an all-out fight to save this Fighter Wing at Bradley. And it is a fight I intend to win.”

Gov. Rell has also stated that the criteria the Defense Department used to rationalize the move are seriously flawed.

“Team Connecticut put together a powerful case, and I am deeply grateful to Senators Dodd and Lieberman and Representative Larson, as well as the dozens of others who put their hearts and souls into this fight,” said Gov. Rell.

“(Brig.) General Thad Martin and his team deserve a special note of thanks. They have worked around the clock and, despite the outcome, I want them to know how pleased I was with their work.”

That work resulted certified data and testimony presented by the adjutant general to the BRAC commission in Boston July 6, which showed that the military value score for Bradley is not 35.4, as initially scored by DoD, but 41.5.

The result of that change moves Bradley to the top of the A-10 list among Guard bases and ahead of two remaining A-10 units in Maryland and Idaho.

“The stated justification to move and retire A-10s from Bradley in DoD Volume 5, Part 1, was the military value, with that corrected the recommendation should change accordingly,” said Brig. Gen. Thad J. Martin, the adjutant general, after presenting that data in testimony July 6.

The military value, by law, must be the primary consideration used to reorganize the force.

The BRAC commission was asked why this corrected MCI Military Value score was not used to rank Bradley in the list of A-10 bases, but no answer was received by press time.

The corrections stemmed from the counting of Ramp and Apron space available for use at Bradley International Airport, an easily verifiable measure of concrete and measure of C-17 transport parking space.

At issue is the May 13 DoD recommendation to

remove the A-10s now based at Bradley and leave the unit without permanently assigned aircraft and many of the guard members associated with flying and maintaining the aircraft.

In addition to Connecticut’s continued fight, the Chief, National Guard Bureau, has plans once the BRAC process is complete.

“It is essential that we have, as objectives for every state, at least one flying unit, a minimum of fifty-percent of its National Guard Forces at home at all times, and an appropriate mix of Army and Air Guard joint core capabilities,” said Lt. Gen. Steven Blum, in a letter to Gov. Rell.

The governor and the adjutant general have stated that the fight to save the aircraft at Bradley is not over.

The transcript and the latest commission actions are available at the BRAC commission Website www.brac.gov.

Current information about the National Guard members’ perspective on the BRAC recommendations are on the National Guard Association Website www.ngaus.org, which is accessible to both members and non-members.

Also, Bradley-specific BRAC information is on the National Guard Association of Connecticut Website at www.ngact.com



Governor M. Jodi Rell (center) meets with members of the 103rd Fighter Wing in the Bradley Air National Guard Base hangar August 10 after a short speech where she assured them she would not allow the A-10s to be removed from Connecticut. A promise she enforced through legal action against DoD on August 29. (Air Force photo by Senior Master Sgt. Linas Venclauskas)

BRAC Timeline

- Connecticut officials testify before the BRAC Commission in Boston, July 6, 2005, in an effort to save Bradley and the Sub Base in Groton.
- The commission will forward its report on the recommendations to the president by Sept. 8, 2005.
- The president will have until Sept. 23, 2005, to accept or reject the recommendations in their entirety.
- If accepted, Congress will have 45 legislative days to reject the recommendations in their entirety or they become binding on the department.

Websites of interest

www.brac.gov
www.defenselink.mil
www.ngact.com
(Click on 103rd FW/BRAC link)

Connecticut wins Round Two, loses Round 3 in battle to save A-10s, keep flying mission

SGT. 1ST CLASS DEBBI NEWTON
STATE PUBLIC AFFAIRS NCO

Although a bit bloodied and bruised, Team Connecticut is not ready to give up the battle to save the A-10s and flying mission of the 103rd Fighter Wing.

The Department of Defense threw the first punch in May when it recommended to the Base Realignment and Closure Commission that Sub Base Groton be closed and that Bradley Air National Guard Base be realigned, removing the A-10s and taking away the flying mission of the Wing.

Gov. M. Jodi Rell quickly formed Team Connecticut and came out swinging. The team worked hard pouring over all the documents and data used by DoD to make its recommendations and found several errors and miscalculations. It appeared Team Connecticut had thrown the one-two punch during the regional BRAC hearing in Boston in July, and Connecticut stood a good chance of having the commission overturn DoD's recommendations.

In late August, the commission voted to remove the Sub Base from the closure list, but left the realignment of Bradley on it.

Again, Team Connecticut came out swinging.

"I am deeply disappointed with, and baffled by, this decision," said Rell in a statement on Aug. 26. "We presented a solid, fact-based case for keeping the 103rd Fighter Wing at Bradley, where it so clearly belongs."

"This fight is not over. As Commander in Chief of the Connecticut Air National Guard, I will be bringing suit to reverse this decision," said Rell. "I have spoken with Attorney General Richard Blumenthal this afternoon asking him to present our case as soon as possible."

On Aug. 29, Rell asked Blumenthal to file suit in the United States District Court with one purpose: keeping the 103rd Fighter Wing fully functional.

"The men and women of the 103rd 'Flying Yankees' have been protecting and defending us since 1917," said Rell. "Today, we are stepping up to protect and defend these brave men and women. This is going to be an all-out fight to save this Fighter Wing at Bradley. And it is a fight I intend to win."

The basis for the suit was the legality, or illegality, of moving or closing a National Guard unit without the consent of the governor of the state where the unit is located. Rell has insisted that taking the A-10s from a flying unit effectively closes the unit.

On Aug. 31 a federal district court judge in Connecticut issued a temporary restraining order naming the BRAC Commission and enjoining it from issuing its recommendation concerning the Bradley Air National Guard station. The order stopped the BRAC Commission from making its recommendation until the Court ruled on a motion for a preliminary injunction that had been brought by Rell at a hearing scheduled for Sept. 7.

On that date, a federal court judge in

Hartford issued the temporary injunction that barred the BRAC Commission from including the realignment of Bradley on the list it would present to President George W. Bush the next day.

The injunction, ordered by U.S. District Court Judge Alfred Covello, did not stop the commission from forwarding its nationwide recommendations to the president on Sept. 8, the deadline for such action, but exempted the recommendations for the 103rd Fighter Wing/Bradley Air Base realignment.

"We won another battle – and I'm not the least bit surprised," said Rell of the decision. "But of course the bigger fight is not yet over. I wish this were definitive, but it is obvious the Defense Department will appeal this ruling."

"So, I am directing the Attorney General to make sure our victory is preserved. This will not be over until we know those planes are staying at Bradley and the men and women of our National Guard know their roles are secure."

"At heart this case is really very simple," said the governor. "The law is clear: the DoD cannot move these units without my approval. And I am not giving my approval. To preserve authority, not just for me, but for future governors, I am acting now. And I will keep on fighting until this issue is resolved once and for all."

The win was widely considered the strongest attack to date on BRAC's authority. Several other states, including Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Missouri and Illinois had launched attacks of their own with varying degrees of success and loss.

But lawyers for the U.S. Department of Justice, representing BARC, filed notice that same evening that they would appeal the ruling in the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals in Manhattan and requested a stay. The 2nd Circuit did not act on the request for a stay, but instead scheduled arguments for Sept. 9. According to Blumenthal, if Connecticut won the case on the merits before the 2nd Circuit, the planes at Bradley would come off the list. But he cautioned that the battle was still being waged and that it was on uncharted legal ground.

"No BRAC commission has ever closed down a (National Guard) unit unlawfully, and no state has ever stood up to BRAC as we have done," said Blumenthal. "We are in seriously uncharted legal territory, but there is no precedent for a state winning when BRAC acted lawlessly."

U.S. Solicitor General Paul D. Clement then sought an emergency stay from the U.S. Supreme Court, which could have lifted the federal injunction issued in Connecticut.

Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg denied the request for an emergency stay saying, "The Second

Circuit is proceeding expeditiously to hear and decide this matter. This Court should not short-circuit the normal review process absent a showing of irreparable harm stronger than what is presented here."

On Sept. 8, BRAC delivered its recommendations to the president, minus the Bradley Air Base recommendation.

But later the next day, after a half-hour hearing and deliberating for 10 minutes, the 2nd Circuit Court dealt a blow to

Connecticut's short-lived victory by issuing an emergency stay to restore Bradley Air National Base to the list of nationwide closings and realignments, once again putting the base's A-10s at risk.

However, the court did not rule based on the merits of the arguments made by Blumenthal that BRAC acted "lawlessly" in not consulting and getting the approval of the governor, but rather on procedural issues, saying their had been no final judgment that caused harm to the state, only a recommendation. The court also ruled that Connecticut would have the right later, if the recommendation becomes a reality, to take legal action to have the decision overturned.

"In holding that the Commission's recommendation does not constitute final agency action that is reviewable, we note that the State of Connecticut may have an opportunity to contest the removal of the aircraft when indeed the action becomes final and the aircraft are in danger of imminent seizure," says the two-page ruling. "At that stage, the state may argue that the Commission acted in violation of 32 U.S.C. Section 104 (c) by not obtaining the Governor's consent prior to issuing its recommendation or otherwise acted in excess of its authority...As the United States conceded, it could not then argue that the Governor should have brought this action sooner. Review at a later stage ensures both that the agency's decision is final and whatever statutory rights the Governor possesses are preserved."

"This action is a temporary setback in today's skirmish, but the battle is only beginning and we will fight it tenaciously and relentlessly," said Blumenthal after hearing the decision of the Appeals Court.

Rell was equally adamant in her vow to continue the battle after learning of the Court's decision.

"We will continue to pursue all of our legal remedies – we must, to preserve the rights of my Administration and future governors as



The Governor (center) meets with reporters outside the gate of Bradley Air National Guard Base August 10 to discuss her visit to the base and tell the state she would fight any proposed realignment of the unit. (Air Force photo by Senior Master Sgt. Linas Venclauskas)

commander-in-chief of the Connecticut National Guard," she said in a statement issued shortly after hearing of the decision. "And we will continue to press our central argument: I am the commander-in-chief of this state's National Guard, and I must approve the movement of this unit. I have not done that and I will not do that – period."

"I cannot stand by while that fundamental principle is violated," she continued. "Events of recent days only reinforce how critical it is for governors to have control over their National Guard units."

"Moreover, unless this recommendation is rejected, Connecticut will be the only state in the country without a flying Air National Guard presence."

"Basically, it's not over," said Brig. Gen. Thaddeus Martin of the battle to retain the A-10s. The adjutant general and commander of the Connecticut National Guard said what happens now is up to the governor, the attorney general and the courts.

"The injunction barring Bradley from being on the list of recommendations has been lifted, but Connecticut's rights have been preserved. The state's right to sue and prove harm has been protected."

He said the governor and attorney general have decided not to jump in quickly and will take time to fully consider all options open to them before making their next move.

More importantly, after seeing off the Quick Reaction Force heading to Louisiana on the day of the Circuit Court's decision, Martin said he spoke to members of the 103rd Fighter Wing being affected. He said he told them they shouldn't get "plugged into the legal battle."

"I reassured them that this will take a while," he said. "I told them that if they have decisions to make about big ticket items – whether to buy a house, buy Christmas presents – to go ahead and do it. They will have jobs."

Guard chief describes Katrina response operations

RUDI WILLIAMS
AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The chief of the National Guard Bureau declared the National Guard's role in Hurricane Katrina response operations "a great success story," after a recent trip to the Gulf Coast where he saw guardsmen providing almost three-quarters of the military's uniformed response.

Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum said he was amazed to watch the wide range of National Guard support taking place simultaneously. Support ranged from Texas National Guard UH-60 helicopters dropping 7,500-pound sand bags to plug a football-field-sized gap in the flood wall in New Orleans, to guardsmen rescuing hundreds of people from attics and rooftops and taking them to safety.

"Saving lives," Blum said of their efforts.

The general made his assessment during what National Guard Bureau officials are calling the largest and most comprehensive National Guard response to a natural disaster in recent history. Previously, the largest had been for the 1989 California Loma Prieta earthquake, during which 32,000 California guardsmen were mobilized, officials said.

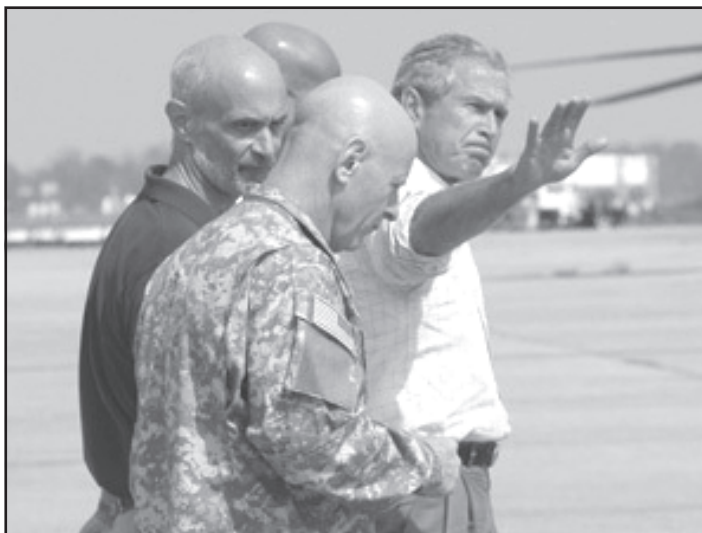
Almost 27,000 guardsmen are providing

security, assisting with food and water distribution, and conducting search-and-rescue missions in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida, National Guard officials said.

That number is expected to rise to nearly 40,000 over the coming days, representing the Guard forces of 40 U.S. states. The Air National Guard flew 721 sorties in the past few days, evacuating more than 11,000 people to safety and delivering 3,600

tons of life-saving supplies and equipment into the devastated area, National Guard Bureau officials said.

In addition, National Guard helicopters have evacuated more than 2,000 sick and injured people out of the New Orleans area as of Sept. 4, and are flying 300 missions a day along the



Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, joined President George Bush and Michael Chertoff, secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, during a Sept. 2 tour of the recovery mission in the New Orleans region ravaged by Hurricane Katrina. National Guard forces from across the country were pouring in to support the mission. (Photo by U.S. Army Master Sgt. Bob Haskell, National Guard Bureau)

Mississippi coast delivering critical supplies.

Guardsmen also have delivered almost 1,600 truckloads of water and more than 1,000 truckloads of ice to citizens throughout the afflicted four-state region, and guardsmen helped put in place

massive sand bags to secure a levee breach in Louisiana, officials said.

Specialized engineers were determining large generator requirements and assessments for fuel pumping lines and the New Orleans dewatering pump system.

In New Orleans, guardsmen moved 20,000 people out of the Superdome and provided sufficient food and water for them.

Blum graphically described the operation in which more than 1,000 Guard military police arrived at the convention center Sept. 2 to thwart a potentially dangerous situation. Tourists and local residents as well as street thugs shared limited space in the center.

The guardsmen encountered "complete cooperation" as they executed their plan "with great military precision," Blum said. Not a shot was fired during the effort, and no guardsmen were injured, he said.

While commending progress so far, Blum acknowledged that "a great task lies ahead of us."

Army and Air National Guardsmen are conducting security work, supporting civilian law enforcement, and providing food, water, medicine, shelter, transportation, vital communications and other emergency support functions supporting the Federal Emergency Management Agency, he said.

First Bradley Airmen head out to assist in Katrina relief efforts

MAJ. GEORGE H. WORRALL III
103rd FIGHTER WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

The first Connecticut Air National Guard members departed Sept. 9 as part of the State's Quick Response Force to provide security for Hurricane Katrina Recovery Operations.

The 14 Airmen join more than 100 Soldiers in the region from the Connecticut Army National Guard who began deploying Sept. 3.

Although Airmen on the team are assigned to the 103rd Operations Group, 103rd Air Control Squadron and 103rd Mission Support Group, most came from the 103rd Security Forces Squadron.

"I consider this deployment to support the hurricane survivors a team effort from the whole squadron," said Capt. Thomas C. Hannon commander, 103rd Security Forces Squadron. "The full-time staff here cancelled leave and volunteered to work twelve hour shifts so the others could take this mission."

The mission security forces will support on the Joint Task Force, to provide security and stabilization forces, hand out relief, protect life and property and ensure proper dignity during recovery of casualties, is somewhat different than what they train for. Hannon believes they are ready

"Because at a moment's notice we could be called to deploy worldwide, like we are today, we train constantly," said Hannon, citing recent field training at Stone's Ranch in June and Fort Devens in August.

The QRF deployed from the Bradley Air National Guard Base in East Granby.

The Security forces members and the rest of the QRF flew on two KC-135 and two C-

130 aircraft to New Orleans, Louisiana.

The QRF was formed after Sept. 11, 2001 to rapidly respond to any state emergency. The Connecticut National Guard has 242

Soldiers and Airmen deployed to Louisiana in support of the hurricane relief efforts.



Bradley ANG Base, East Granby, Conn., - Senior Master Sgt. Wilberto Lopez (forklift driver), Senior Airman Rose Shaw and Master Sergeant Randall Whited, transportation management squadron, who normally manages A-10 deployments from the base, load a C-130 with cargo needed by the Soldiers and Airmen from the Connecticut National Guard's Quick Response Force (QRF) September 9, 2005. The QRF was formed after September 11, 2001 to rapidly respond to any state emergency; today the personnel are on their way to New Orleans, La. to provide stabilizing security for Hurricane Katrina relief operations. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Jeanne E. Daigneau)



Members of the 143rd Military Police Company and the 134th Military Police were among the first Connecticut National Guard units to head to Louisiana. Two members of the 14th CST had already left. (Photo by 1st Lt. Celine Marini, Asst. State PAO)



Members of the joint Army and Air National Guard QRF check their equipment one last time before leaving for Louisiana. (Photo by 1st Lt. Celine Marini, Asst. State PAO)

Katrina

Units head out



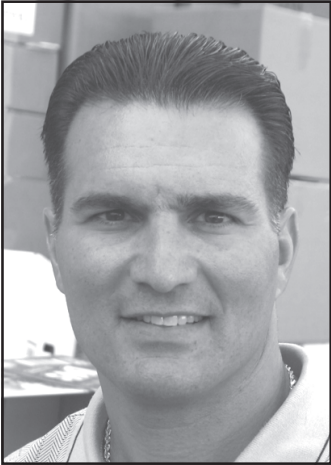
Soldiers work on palletizing the equipment of the two MP units headed to Louisisana. (Photo by 1st Lt. Celine Marini, Asst. State PAO)



One of the trucks of the 1048th Truck Company pulls out of Camp Rell with a full load, heading first to Mississippi to drop off supplies donated by Connecticut's citizens, before heading to Louisiana. The unit took 20 trucks with them, of which half were loaded with water and other relief supplies for the hurricane stricken Gulf Region. (Photo by 1st Lt. Celine Marini, Asst. State PAO)

Perspectives on Katrina

Why did you come out to volunteer to help with the collection effort for Hurricane Katrina relief?



BOB BARTOLI
HOMETOWN: WOLCOTT
OCCUPATION: IRS ANALYST

"I was watching a lot of the television coverage (of the hurricane devastation), so I wanted to come down just to help out in whatever way I could, with the whole effort. I gave up my lunch hour to come down and chip in with some coworkers. We came to give whatever time we could in order to help people in need."

LARRY ANGLIN
HOMETOWN: EAST HARTFORD
OCCUPATION: INNER-CITY YOUTH COUNSELOR

"Ultimately, it's about giving back in God's name and being able to make a difference. So many people have made a positive difference in my life, this is my chance to give that back."



JACKIE ROOT
HOMETOWN: SOUTH WINDSOR
OCCUPATION: SERVER ENGINEER, THE HARTFORD INSURANCE COMPANY

"It feels better than just writing a check – to actually be doing something to help. I came for a few hours on the holiday (Labor Day), but I felt bad leaving. So, I took a vacation day to come out today (Sept. 7th)."

NANCY DOMINELLO
HOMETOWN: SOUTHTON
OCCUPATION: NURSE, MIDSTATE MEDICAL CENTER

"I wanted to help. I think and I hope that we're helping the people in need. I sent money, but I also wanted to do something. I can't go down there, so I figured that I'd help out in my local area."



JOHN LOWERY
HOMETOWN: HARTFORD
OCCUPATION: LANDSCAPER (WORK BANK)

"I came to show support and to help out – doing anything I can just to help out."

PATTY POMPOSI
HOMETOWN: SOUTHTON
OCCUPATION: NURSE, MIDSTATE MEDICAL CENTER

"We had days off and we decided to do something. You can give money, but you really want to help these poor people. It's heart-wrenching. I would like to do more medical work, but that's not an easy thing to do, because my job is up here."

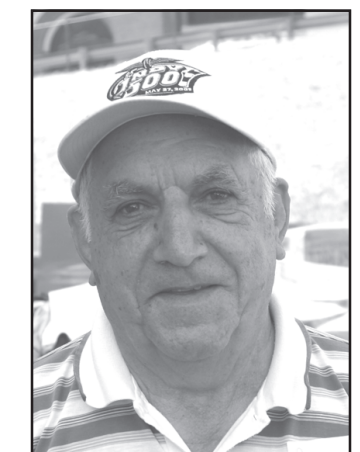


KRISTA ELLEGARDE
HOMETOWN: TERRYVILLE
OCCUPATION: SELF-EMPLOYED (COSMETICS)

"I felt so helpless seeing it all. I just wish there was more that I could do. My heart goes out to the people who were left with nothing."

RAY PERLEONI
HOMETOWN: WEST HARTFORD
OCCUPATION: RETIRED

"We feel sorry for the people down there. This is the least we can do; and then, we'll give a donation later. The victims deserve the help of everyone. That's what made us come out to volunteer."



Katrina

Volunteers lend a helping hand to those in need



Members of the Trinity College Womens' Field Hockey team chipped in their time to help with the disaster relief effort. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State PA NCO)



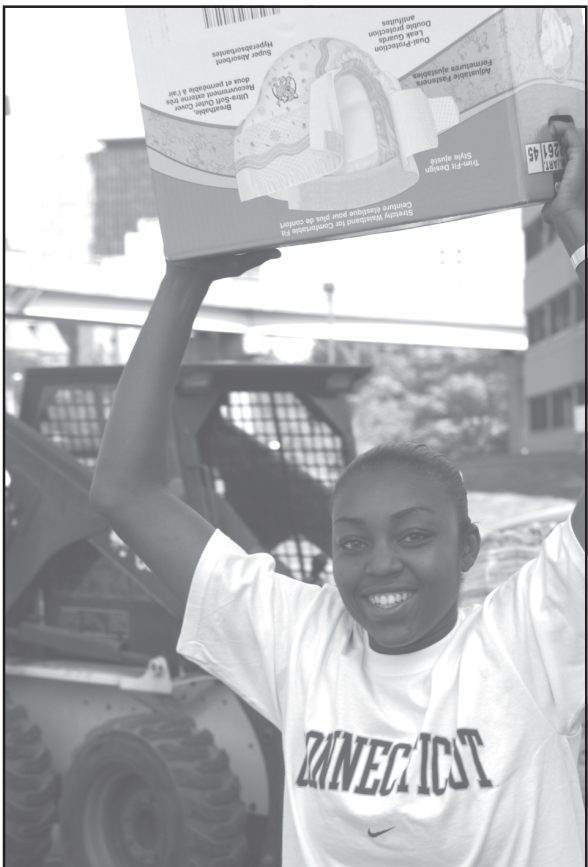
The UConn Womens' Basketball team gave of its time to help. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State PA NCO)



The UConn Womens Basketball Team showed up in force one afternoon to assist in the volunteer effort aiding victims of Hurricane Katrina. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State PA NCO)



Students from Pulaski Middle School in New Britain dropped off 10,000 bottles of water they had collected. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State PA NCO)



A member of the UConn Womens' Basketball Team lifts a package of diapers over her head as though it were a victory trophy. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State PA NCO)



Volunteers turned out by the hundreds to help sort and pack donations for victims of Hurricane Katrina. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State PA NCO)



Connecticut General Assembly passes legislation

SGT. 1ST CLASS DEBBI NEWTON
STATE PANCO

During the 2005 Legislative Session in Hartford, nearly 95 proposed bills were presented to the Connecticut General Assembly that were aimed at improving the quality of life for Connecticut Guardsmen, active duty personnel stationed in Connecticut, retirees, veterans and their families.

Several of those bills were proposed by the Connecticut Military Department, the National Guard Association of Connecticut, the Connecticut Department of Veterans' Affairs or individual Guard members. Many others were proposed by members of the newly formed Special Committee for Veterans' Affairs or individual lawmakers.

While not every bill made it out of committee, 87 percent of those that did became law. Last month the Connecticut Guardian highlighted three of those bills (Education benefits for active duty personnel, Indemnification for Guardsmen and Worker's Compensation for Guardsmen called to State Active Duty)

The following is a synopsis of some of those bills and what affect they will have on Connecticut's Guardsmen, retirees, veterans, active duty personnel and their families. Other new laws will be featured in next month's issue.

For more information on these new laws, contact Capt. Timothy Tomcho, JAG office at timothy.tomcho@us.army.mil or the National Guard Association of Connecticut at ngact2005@yahoo.com

You may also email your ideas for future legislation to either of those addresses.

DEATH BENEFITS FOR SERVICE

The bill gives death benefits to certain survivors of Connecticut-domiciled, armed forces members and reservists who are killed in action or die from illness or accident suffered while deployed in active duty service in Southwest Asia in support of Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom between September 11, 2001 and July 1, 2006. It requires the state treasurer to make the payments and reduce payments by any amount of death benefit paid under federal law for the member's death.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2006

WAIVER OF INTEREST ON PROPERTY TAXES FOR SPOUSES OF CERTAIN MILITARY PERSONNEL

The bill authorizes a municipality, by ordinance to waive interest due on any property tax or tax installment for up to one year for real property assessed on the 2003 grand list for a resident who lives with and is the spouse of a member of the U. S. Armed Forces or of any state or reserve component thereof who was called to active service for military operations authorized by the President entailing military action in Iraq and

who is serving in the Middle East on the final day that the property tax or tax installment is due.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

MILITARY FAMILY RELIEF FUND

The bill establishes the Military Family Relief Fund as separate, nonlapsing General Fund account. It contains (1) state appropriations; (2) any statutorily required deposits; and (3) gifts, grants, donations, or bequests made for the funds' purposes. Investment earnings credited to the assets of the fund become part of the assets. Any fiscal year-end balance must be carried over to the next year.

The state treasurer administers the fund. The Military Department must use the funds for the bill's purposes. It may take from the account an amount equal to its costs for administering the program up to a maximum of 2% of the money deposited in the account in any fiscal year.

Relief Fund

The Military Department must use the fund to make grants to immediate relatives of Connecticut-domiciled, armed forces members on active duty, including guardsmen, to pay for essential personal or household goods or services, if paying for them would be a hardship for the relatives because of the member's service. "Immediate relatives" are an eligible member's spouse, child, or parent domiciled in Connecticut or other relatives living in his household. The services include repairs, medical services not covered by insurance, transportation, babysitting, clothing, school supplies, and other goods or services essential to the relatives' well being.

The department must establish a simple grant application process and process applications within seven days after they are submitted. It cannot make grants that exceed what is in the fund.

The bill allows the department to adopt implementing regulations after evaluating the program in its first six months. The regulations may (1) establish a maximum amount of each grant, each type of grant, or grants to immediate relatives and (2) establish grant approval criteria. The department may implement the policies and procedures contained in the proposed regulations while in the process of adopting the regulations. To do so, it must publish notice of intent to adopt regulations in the *Connecticut Law Journal* no later than 20 days after implementing the policies and procedures, which are valid until the regulations take effect or one year after the notice of intent to adopt regulations is published, whichever is sooner.

By October 1, 2005 and by the 15th day following the close of each calendar quarter thereafter, the department must submit a report to the Veterans' Affairs Committee for the previous quarter showing (1) the number

of applications received, (2) the number of members whose relatives received grants, (3) the amount they got and for what purposes, and (4) any recommendations for the fund, including proposed legislation. It must not include the names of eligible members or recipients in the reports, and any information the department gets with their names and addresses or that could be used to identify them is confidential and exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

TAXPAYER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MILITARY FAMILY RELIEF FUND

The bill allows taxpayers filing returns for tax years starting on or after January 1, 2005 to contribute all or part of their personal income tax refund to the Military Relief Fund by indicating this on their tax returns, in a manner provided by the revenue services commissioner.

If the amount of refund due to the taxpayer is at least as large as the contribution, the contribution must be for the full amount designated by the taxpayer. If the actual refund is less than the indicated amount the entire refund must be contributed to the fund. The revenue services (DRS) commissioner must certify to the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) secretary and state treasurer (1) the amount of the refund initially owing to the taxpayer, (2) the amount of the contribution, and (3) the difference. For purposes of any subsequent determination of the taxpayer's net tax payment, the contribution must be considered a part of the refund paid to the taxpayer.

Contributions are irrevocable once the return is filed. Filers must make contributions in a manner the DRS commissioner prescribes.

The DRS commissioner, after notifying the OPM secretary and with his approval, may keep up to 4% of the amount collected in any fiscal year for administrative costs. The balance goes into the fund.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2005 and applicable to taxable years commencing on or after January 1, 2005.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE PROGRAM IN NATIONAL GUARD'S FAMILY PROGRAM

The bill requires the National Guard's Family Program to establish a volunteer service program for armed forces members, including guardsmen, on active duty and residing in Connecticut. The services may include repairs, gardening, transportation, babysitting, tutoring, cooking, or other services the recipient finds helpful.

Under the program, a volunteer service coordinator works with towns and local organizations throughout the state to provide volunteer services to the members

and their families. Local organizations include nonprofit organizations that serve members, veterans, and their families and other organizations that seek to volunteer their services to such people. The volunteer services coordinator must identify and help towns and organizations that provide volunteer services to members and their families in communities throughout the state.

By January 31, 2006, and annually thereafter, the National Guard must report to the Veterans' Affairs Committee on the services and level of services the volunteers provide in different geographical areas.

The bill prohibits anyone from volunteering any service for which a license, certificate of registration, permit, or other credential issued by a state agency is required unless such person holds the pertinent credential.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

THERAPY SUPPORT GROUPS

The bill requires the National Guard's Family Program to publicize to all members of the armed forces, including guardsmen, and their families the availability throughout the state of therapy support groups for them. The publicity must include contact information for referral to support groups in locations that are convenient for them.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BONUS PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN GUARD MEMBERS

Under the bill, current or former guard members (1) called to active service on or after September 11, 2001; (2) who were in active service for at least 90 consecutive days; (3) deployed in active service in a combat zone and, if discharged, were honorably discharged or discharged because of a line-of duty injury are entitled to a \$ 50 bonus for each month or major part thereof, up to a maximum of \$ 500. The member has three years after the date when the operation in which he served ends to apply for the bonus.

The adjutant general, in consultation with the veterans' affairs commissioner, must adopt regulations, including application, eligibility verification, and payment procedures.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

VETERANS' SERVICE RIBBONS

The bill requires the veterans' affairs commissioner, in conjunction with the adjutant general, to award a ribbon and medal to wartime veterans who lived in Connecticut when they were called to active-duty service or are domiciled here on the date of the award. They cannot make awards posthumously.

The commissioner, in conjunction with the adjutant general, must adopt implementing

aimed at Guardsmen, their families, veterans, retirees

regulations, setting out the process for designing the ribbon and medal, identifying eligible veterans, and establishing procedures for distributing the ribbons and medals to eligible veterans. The Military Department must pay for the ribbons and medals from funds appropriated to its military assistance account.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2005

VETERANS' TUITION WAIVER

The bill makes domicile, rather than residency, a qualifying criterion for tuition waivers available at Connecticut state colleges for wartime veterans' and active members of the Connecticut National Guard. The bill does not define "domicile" but specifies that it includes domicile for less than one year, notwithstanding the law that requires "domicile" for at least one year for in-state tuition purposes. The bill retains the residency criterion for seniors age 62 or over, dependent children of prisoners of war or servicemembers missing in action, and dependent children and surviving spouses of terrorist victims.

By law, tuition is waived at the University of Connecticut, Connecticut State University campuses, and community-technical colleges for certain groups. Generally, the laws granting the waivers require that applicants be Connecticut residents, but they do not define resident. In the absence of a definition, the colleges require one-year residency. Apparently, the basis for this interpretation is CGS § 10a-30, which, with some exceptions, requires students to be domiciled in Connecticut for at least one year to qualify for in-state tuition.

Domicile v. Residency

Domicile is a "person's true, fixed, principal, and permanent home, to which that person intends to return and remain even though currently residing elsewhere" (*Black's Law Dictionary*). "A person may have more than one residence at a time but only one domicile" (*Black's Law Dictionary*).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2005

VETERANS' DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORTS

The bill requires the Veterans' Affairs Board of Trustees to also submit copies of its annual reports to the Veterans' Affairs Committee, instead of just the governor and Public Safety and Security Committee. The reports describe board activities and make recommendations for adding new programs and improving the delivery of service to veterans.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

VETERANS' TOLL-FREE PHONE NUMBER

The bill requires the Department of Veterans' Affairs to provide a toll-free number that military personnel, including guardsmen, and their families can call every day, including holidays, for information about, and referrals to entities that provide, benefits and services

available to them. The number must be staffed by trained volunteers or department employees working on weekdays during regular business hours and on weekends and holidays from 9 a. m to 5 p. m.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2005

REGISTRY OF VETERANS AND ARMED FORCES MEMBERS

The bill requires the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DOVA) to create a registry of veterans and armed forces members to facilitate notification of listed persons about benefits and services available to, and legislation affecting, them.

Service Members' Registry

The bill requires DOVA to develop and maintain a contact list of armed forces members, including guardsmen, and honorably discharged veterans living in Connecticut. The list must include only their names and mailing addresses. DOVA must compile the list from its own records and information it gets from the Military Department, town assessors, service members, and veterans.

By September 1, 2005, the Military Department must give DOVA a list of the names and mailing addresses, but no other information, of each resident service member in its record. By the 60th day after a veterans' property tax exemption takes effect, the town assessor must give DOVA the name and mailing address of each individual who has such an exemption. Veterans and service members living in Connecticut may get listed by submitting their names and addresses to DOVA in person or by mail. The former must provide a copy of their military discharge document (DD 214); the latter, their military identification card.

DOVA and the Military Department may use the list only for notifying listed people of benefits, proposed or enacted legislation that affects them or their families, or other information that the departments believes will help them. DOVA must give a copy of the list to the Military Department upon receipt of a written, signed request from the adjutant general. The bill prohibits disclosure of information in the contact list. The list is not subject to FOIA disclosure.

Anyone can get his name removed from the list by notifying DOVA in writing.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2005

NUCLEAR SAFETY EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS ACCOUNT

The bill transfers, from the adjutant general to the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) commissioner, several powers and responsibilities regarding the nuclear safety emergency preparedness account within the General Fund. Specifically, it:

1. requires the Department of Public Utility Control to assess nuclear power plants to fund the account at the request of the commissioner rather than the adjutant

general;

2. allows the commissioner, rather than adjutant general, to spend the money in conjunction with the Department of Environmental Protection, including expenditures for administrative purposes; and

3. requires the commissioner, rather than the adjutant general, to submit an annual plan to the Office of Policy and Management for carrying out the nuclear emergency preparedness program.

In addition, the bill allows the account to be used to fund three staff positions in the DEMHS rather than the Military Department. It assesses all Nuclear Regulatory Commission licensees that own or operate nuclear power plants, rather than just licensees that operate such plants, for funding for the account.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2005

TESTS ON ARMED FORCES MEMBERS FOR DEPLETED URANIUM EXPOSURE

Beginning October 1, 2005, the bill requires the adjutant general and the veterans' affairs commissioner to help eligible guardsmen and veterans get federal treatment services, including a best practice health screening test for exposure to depleted uranium, if they (1) are assigned a risk level I, II, or III for depleted uranium exposure by their branch of service; (2) are referred by a military physician; or (3) have reason to believe that they were exposed to depleted uranium during service. The best practice uranium test must use (1) a bioassay procedure involving methods sensitive enough to detect depleted uranium at low levels and (2) equipment capable of discriminating between different radioisotopes in naturally occurring levels of uranium and the characteristic ratio and marker for depleted uranium.

The bill prohibits the use of state funds to pay for the tests or other federal treatment services.

By October 1, 2005, the adjutant general must report to the Veterans' Affairs Committee on the scope and adequacy of training guardsmen receive on detecting whether their service has exposed them to depleted uranium. The report must include an assessment of the cost and feasibility of adding predeployment training on exposure to uranium and chemical substances and recommended precautions in a combat zone.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

HEALTH EFFECTS OF THE EXPOSURE TO HAZARDOUS MATERIAL TASK FORCE

The bill establishes a task force to study, within available appropriations, the health effects of the exposure to hazardous material, including depleted uranium, as it relates to military service. The task force

must, within available appropriations, (1) commission a study to consider the health of service members who may have been exposed to hazardous materials since August 2, 1990 and conduct a scientific conference on those health effects; (2) initiate a health registry for veterans and military personnel returning from Afghanistan, Iraq, or other countries in which depleted uranium or other hazardous material may be found; (3) develop a plan for outreach to, and follow-up, of military personnel; (4) prepare a report for service members about potential exposure to depleted uranium and other toxic substances and precautions recommended in combat and noncombat conditions while in a combat zone; and (5) make any other recommendations. The task force must report by January 31, 2006 to the Veterans' Affairs Committee. It dissolves after it files this report.

The task force must commission the study with the approval of the Senate president pro tempore and the House speaker. The person retained to conduct the study must disclose to these officials any research he has conducted (1) on matters related to depleted uranium or (2) that was funded by an entity engaged in manufacturing processes that use depleted uranium.

The task force consists of:

1. the veterans' affairs commissioner or a designee;
2. the public health commissioner or a designee;
3. six legislators, one each appointed by the Senate president pro tem, House speaker and the House and Senate majority and minority leaders;
4. two veterans who have experience or knowledge of hazardous material, one each appointed by the Senate president pro tem and the House speaker; and
5. four doctors or scientists who know about, or have experience in, the detection or health effects of exposure to depleted uranium or other hazardous material, appointed one each by the House and Senate majority and minority leaders.

Appointments must be made within 30 days after the bill takes effect. Appointing authorities are responsible for filling vacancies. The Senate president pro tem and House speaker must select one senator and one representative to be chairpersons. The chairpersons must schedule the first meeting no later than 60 days after the bill takes effect. The administrative staff of the Veterans' Affairs Committee serve as administrative staff of the task force.

The task force must submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the Veteran's Affairs Committee by January 31, 2006. The task force terminates when the task force submits its report or on January 31, 2006, whichever is earlier.

Det 6, OSACOM heads out to MOB station for overseas deployment



Seven Soldiers from Detachment 6, Operational Support Airlift Command, were the honored guests at a formal sendoff ceremony held at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Windsor Locks, September 7th. The unit was alerted and mobilized in June and deployed to Ft. Bliss, TX on September 10th. After completing further training and validation, the seven Soldiers will deploy to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The detachment is a fixed wing aviation unit that provides transport for the Connecticut National Guard, the U.S. Army and the Department of Defense. Approximately 130 people attended the ceremony, including Gov. M. Jodi Rell, Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Thaddeus J. Martin and State Comptroller Nancy Wyman. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Steve Markowski, 65th PCH)



Brig. Gen. Thad Martin, Adjutant General, addresses members of Company G, 126th Aviation while visiting them at Fort Dix. (Photo by Lt. Col. John Whitford, State PAO)

Company G, 126th Aviation heads overseas in support of the Global War on Terror



Members of Company G, 126th Aviation pose for a unit photo with Brig. Gen. Thad Martin and State Command Sgt. Maj. Raymond Zastaury the day before heading overseas. The unit was at Fort Dix undergoing its validation process. (Photo by Lt. Col. John Whitford, State PAO)

Connecticut Military Department News

Foot Guard salute to first president's 274th birthday

CAPT. AL HUDSON
2ND CO. GOVERNOR'S FOOT GUARD PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The 2nd Company of the Governor's Foot Guard (GFG) participated in a tribute to honor the 274th birthday of founding father, Samuel Huntington in Norwich.

The 2nd Company and local officials, along with political representatives from Connecticut and Washington gathered to lay a ceremonial wreath at the newly renovated tomb of Huntington.

The ceremony was held at Norwichtown Colonial Cemetery, where Huntington is interred with his wife Martha. Huntington was born July 16, 1731 in Scotland, Conn. He was a self-educated lawyer who would eventually serve as a Connecticut attorney delegate to King George III and as a Chief Justice of the Connecticut Superior Court.

He moved to Norwich in 1760 and launched a remarkable political career. He was elected to the Connecticut General Assembly in 1764 and represented Connecticut in the Continental Congress. In 1776, he signed the Declaration of Independence and became president of the Continental Congress in 1781.

During his term, the Congress ratified the

Confederation to include the name "United States", thus making Huntington first President of the United States. Later he was elected governor of Connecticut and helped ratify the U.S. Constitution in 1788 as a delegate from Connecticut and died in office in 1796.

During the recent tribute, Gov. M. Jodi Rell's representative, Catherine Marx, read a proclamation that designated July 16, 2005 as Samuel Huntington Day in Norwich. A wreath laying ceremony then took place by U.S. Rep. Rob Simmons, State Attorney General Richard Blumenthal and Major Commandant Peter Jenkin of the Foot Guard.

Norwich Historical Society President, Bill Stanley, organized the tribute to Huntington.

Stanley is attempting to get official presidential recognition for Huntington, so he would be honored in a wreath laying ceremony every year by the U.S. Marines, as is done with all deceased U.S. Presidents. "It was Samuel Huntington who held the country together when Washington was in the Army," Stanley said. "He is the official first president of the United States."

Members of the Foot Guard also participated as escorts to the dignitaries and in an honor



Participating in the salute to the founding fathers 274th birthday were Maj. Commandant Peter Jenkin of Governor's Foot Guard, Mark Brown Mohegan Tribal Chairman, state Attorney General Richard Blumenthal, Bill Stanley President Norwich Historical Society, U.S. Rep. Rob Simmons, Sen. Edith Prague and Gov. M. Jodi Rell's representative Catherine Marx.

guard with a Norwich militia unit and members of the Norwich Police. The Foot Guard members indicated that they were honored to have been

a part of this fitting tribute to honor the 274th birthday of one of our nation's great leaders from Connecticut.

Foot Guard Awards Scholarships to Hartford Students

SGT. MARK BOUDREAU
1ST CO. GOVERNOR'S FOOT GUARD PUBLIC AFFAIRS

HARTFORD, CT July 25, 2005: Major Dennis Conroy, Commandant of the First Company Governor's Foot Guard, announced the recipients of the 2005 Foot Guard Scholarships. The annual scholarship is awarded to a college bound student from each of Hartford's high schools based upon excellence in academics as determined by each school's guidance department.

Crystal Jenkins, a graduate of Weaver High School will be attending Post University in Waterbury, Ct. this fall, and is planning on majoring in elementary education. Crystal was vice-president of her senior class at Weaver. While in school, Crystal worked for RAM School Age Childcare Center at the Rawson School. She also volunteered at her church helping out with the youth group.

A graduate of Bulkeley High School, Ashley Nieves will be attending the University of Connecticut in Storrs. She plans on applying to the School of Allied Health to major in Physical Therapy. Ashley will also be a member of the Air Force ROTC at UConn. Among her extra-curricular activities, Ashley was a member of the student council, the manager of the girls basketball team, a Mass Mutual Achiever, a member of Tech Prep and a volunteer in the school Guidance office. Away from school she volunteered at Hartford Hospital, working with toddlers and pre-school children.

Jorge Torres of Hartford Public High School has chosen to attend Capitol Community College in Hartford. He plans on majoring in Computer Graphics. While in school, Jorge was a member of the football and baseball teams. Away from school, Jorge was a member of the Pub Club and the Hartford Police Explorers, two groups active in performing community service activities.

The First Company Governor's Foot Guard, established in 1771, is the oldest military organization in continuous existence in the United States.

Foot Guard Announces Soldier of the Year

SGT. MARK BOUDREAU
1ST CO. GOVERNOR'S FOOT GUARD PUBLIC AFFAIRS

HARTFORD, CT August 9, 2005: Major Dennis Conroy, Commandant of the First Company Governor's Foot Guard, has announced the awarding of the Soldier of the Year award for 2005 to Pfc. Russell Scull, an Enfield native currently residing in Middletown.

Scull is a dedicated, committed member of the First Company Governor's Foot Guard. He gives freely of his time to its members and the efficient operation of the Company. He undertakes all tasks, assigned and voluntary, with energy, enthusiasm, and a dedication to excellence.

Scull conducts himself in proficient military manner as he performs his duties as a member of the rifle company. His dedication is evidenced by his perfect attendance at all required drills/activities during the past drill year. In addition to all his assigned duties, he volunteered additional hours to participate in 22 Color Guard details.

Scull's devotion to the Command is evidenced by his assuming responsibility for the organization and operation of the Enlisted Members' Lounge – providing an environment that fosters camaraderie. He has initiated several innovative social events while in this role.

Scull is an active and skillful member of the 1st Company's Rifle Team, competing monthly in the CT Big Bore Rifle League matches.

Scull serves with distinction and is a credit to himself, the First Company Governor's Foot Guard, the State Militia, and the State of Connecticut.

The award was presented to Scull on Aug. 6 during a combined militia drill hosted by the Second Company Governor's Horse Guard at their site in Newtown, Conn. The combined drill showcased Connecticut's militia units and was part of Newtown's tercentennial celebration activities that day.

The First Company Governor's Foot Guard was established in 1771 and is the oldest military organization in continuous existence in the United States.

Katrina: The Guard steps up



Forklift operators worked 14 to 16 hour days during the collection operation. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, PA NCO)



Guardsmen assisted donors in unloading their cars when they came by Hartford to drop off relief supplies. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State PA NCO)



Connecticut Guardsmen unload one of many trucks filled at other locations and brought to Hartford. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State PA NCO)



Unloading yet another truck. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State PA NCO)



Soldiers assisted in unloading vehicles as the public pulled up to make donations. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State PA NCO)



Staff Sgt. Tony Hodges spent many hours operating the forklift loading and unloading trucks and moving pallets of supplies. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State PA NCO)



Entertaining the volunteers and keeping their spirits up. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State PA NCO)



Staff Sgt. Carlton Overton accepts a tent from two young boys who wanted to donate it so "someone would have a place to live." (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton, State PA NCO)

Guard Voices: Commentary

Deployment brings easy question, tough answer

SPC. JENNIFER FITTS

BAGHDAD, Iraq (Army News Service, Aug. 18, 2005) — I've been asked before what makes me stay in the Army through what will probably be, in its entirety, an almost three-year separation from my husband, and I can't seem to explain it.

Why am I in the Army?

The simple answer might be "patriotism." My patriotism toward the Army is the topic of this commentary, but there's so much more to it than that.

Yes, I am a patriot. I love my country and I'm proud of her. I'm not proud of everything that she's done, but I am proud of her as a whole. I am proud of the ideals that my country stands for; proud of the people who, whatever background they come from, stand beside me and say "I'm an American."

I'm proud of the country that my great-grandparents risked their lives to come to, from Holland, from France, from Poland and from Russia. They saw a golden land, one where dreams grew wild in endless stretches of land.

I still see that original promise that brought them here.

I see those very same dreams, though there are days when those dreams don't shine so brightly, and I wonder if the "American Dream" is a shadow that I've been told to chase with no hope of actually catching it.

Then, the sun comes out again, and my dreams, so big that only a land as vast as America could hold them, shimmer in the

sun like treasures scattered over mountains.

I love my country.

I love her with a fierce pride and a passion that isn't always explainable to someone who hasn't experienced that love.

I love my country enough to answer her call, to put my civilian life on hold to respond to the burden she asks me to pick up, regardless of whether or not I agree with why she's asking me. I love her enough to wear a uniform and to possibly give my life in her service.

But there's more to it than that.

Over the years, I've tried putting it in plain words, with various degrees of success.

I'm a patriot, yes, but it's more than a deep and abiding love of my country and a need to give back to her somehow that keeps me in the Army.

It's not the pay; although for the first time in my adult life I am totally out of debt and living more than just barely above the poverty level.

It's not the education benefits, since I earned them after my first enlistment. The GI Bill is a lovely thing, but it's not why I stay.

It's not the medical care necessarily, since as a National Guard member, I don't get

many medical bennies when I'm not activated.

It's the people — the Soldiers. The good, the bad and the indifferent.

It's that human factor that reaches out, across backgrounds and educations and lives, and binds us together.

Then, the sun comes out again, and my dreams, so big that only a land as vast as America could hold them, shimmer in the sun like treasures scattered over mountains.

No matter how fragile those bonds seem, they're still there and they're everlasting.

Get a group of people together and the Soldiers and veterans will congregate,

usually trading "No kidding, there I was" stories, peppered with obscure acronyms and coarse language.

It's a uniquely shared set of experiences, shared by individuals who are, forever afterward, part of something bigger than themselves. It's something that honestly defies my attempts to catalogue, classify or quantify. It's almost impossible to truly dissect.

I've been asked if I could find such fulfilling camaraderie in another field, and I probably could, as long as certain parameters were met. My alternative calling would have to be challenging, both physically and emotionally and involve things that should suck, but somehow, don't.

I'd require that my other calling involve

daily "somethings" that, with rare exception, leave me dirty, tired and pissed off at stupid stuff, but still has me laughing my butt off at the end of the day.

I could probably find that dream job somewhere else, but I love Soldiers, like no one I've ever loved before. They are, in my mind, my family. I've been through so many things with other Soldiers. I've been hurt by other Soldiers and also held up by Soldiers when I thought I couldn't take any more.

I've fallen in love with a Soldier, someone who understands the why, the what, and the how of the Army, and I wouldn't trade that for anything.

I've cried because of my love of the Army and I've experienced anguished heartbreak, enduring personal sacrifices that made me doubt my future in the military.

I've laughed and cried and made friends who will be part of my life until the day I die.

So, yes, I am a patriot.

But the men and women in uniform beside me show me why I'm proud of my country. My fellow Soldiers remind me day in and day out why it is that I love America and why I stay in the Army.

For that, I thank them.

(Editor's note: Spc. Jennifer Fitts is an Army journalist with the 100th MPAD. Her article first appeared in the Marne Express, a weekly newspaper for Task Force Baghdad and the 3rd Infantry Division.)

Say 'yes' to the call of duty

COMMAND SGT. MAJ. WILLIAM M. GRANT

BAGHDAD, Iraq (Army News Service, Aug. 16, 2005) — During this time in the history of our Army when recruiting is facing a unique challenge, the need for great Americans to join or remain in the ranks of this team (the Army) is paramount.

However, the call to duty brings with it responsibility, commitment, dedication, and personal courage.

What does it take to be a Soldier in today's Army? I would tell you that it takes saying "Yes" regarding those things that are good, true, and team supporting.

We all said "Yes" when our journey began in uniform, regardless of how long ago that decision was made. That "Yes" was made with our limited perspective on what the future had in store for us.

"I solemnly swear to support and defend the constitution of the United States of

America against all enemies foreign and domestic ... so help me God."

These are very interesting words, especially in the situation in which we find ourselves today.

We say "Yes" when faced with the prospect of promotion, understanding that much more would be required of us. We say "Oooh yes" when our raises hit the bank, thus increasing our buying power.

Yet, are we continuing to say "Yes" during these times of getting down to the business of supporting and representing ourselves well in light of the opening statement?

The call to duty comes in different shapes and sizes, yet, the endstate is common for all concerned.

I believe that duty comes easy when we understand the "Why" and the impact of an action on the big picture.

I believe it's easy to say "Yes" to the call to duty when Soldiers realize that they are

integral members of the team. Therefore, I believe that Soldiers will gravitate in and around duty in direct proportion to the command climate they exist in.

I believe we are doing well in that area here in the Marne Division and Task Force Baghdad

Are there key points of reference in your professional endeavors that require a "Yes" that would move you to the next level?

I don't normally end in this manner, but consider these ideas to repeated comments from the old "Arsenio Hall Show" — this is something that makes you go "hmmmm."

(Editor's note: Command Sgt. Maj. William M. Grant is the Task Force Baghdad and 3rd Infantry Division command sergeant major.)

*Thank you,
Families, for
all that you
do and all
that you
sacrifice.*

*We are
indebted to
you.*

Boy Scouts collect donations for Katrina survivors, drop them off at armory

WILLIAM J. BENSON
BOY SCOUT TROOP 170

It all started with a telephone call from a parent, Karin Comer of Farmington. The message left was, "What is Boy Scout Troop 170 doing for the hurricane disaster relief effort?" For the next two days, all you heard was the call for cash donations.

Then, on Thursday morning, we heard on the Brad Davis radio program that the Connecticut National Guard was looking for donations of water, food, and other essentials. By mid afternoon, the Troop had brainstormed its plan and made the necessary arrangements. Our idea was to solicit donations at the Wal Mart store in Avon.

Another Troop 170 parent, Juliana Mando of Avon, called the National Guard to find out about their needs and where supplies could be delivered. She also called the WalMart store manager to get approval to conduct the collection outside the store. In the evening, we met at the First Church of Christ Unionville, the sponsor of Boy Scout Troop 170. We discussed the issues and decided to conduct the collection on Sept. 3. Assistant Scoutmaster Ron Vallario said he would try to get a truck from his employer.

By 7:30 p.m. the plan was turned over to the youth leadership of the troop. They called all the members of the troop and arranged for enough help to man four 2-hour shifts, covering the period from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday.

By 8:00 a.m. Saturday, the "first shift" scouts had arrived, received their training, and were greeting shoppers with a good morning and a request to buy something for hurricane relief while in the store. They handed each shopper a card that contained a list of recommended items. Scouts also handed out cards in the parking lot to get the word to shoppers headed for the Big Y

supermarket. Ron Vallario showed up at 8:30 with a 24-foot box truck that had been donated by the tire company, Berlin Bandag. The pile of donations had already started to grow!

Throughout the day, scouts, leaders and parents showed up to help. Many stayed all day. By mid-morning, the boys had a hard time keeping up with sorting and boxing the donations on the truck. At the time, we thought that if we only half-filled the truck on Saturday, we would return on Sunday to finish the job. By noon, there were so many donations that it was hard to get the scouts working on the truck to stop for lunch, pizza!

By mid-afternoon, it became clear that the response was overwhelming! We estimate that 80-90 percent of the shoppers made a donation. They had purchased all the bottled water in the store and almost all the diapers! Some shoppers donated full shopping carts! Others donated cash and the scouts did the shopping for them. We also received two one hundred dollar checks that we forwarded to the Salvation Army. One family made a donation and then went home; they returned with a car load of clothing! Other people drove over from the Big Y to drop off donations.

Some shoppers told us they had been feeling depressed, not knowing how to help. Their generosity left them feeling pretty good when they went home!

By 5:00 p.m. we were on the way to the Hartford Armory with a fully loaded truck. Two additional vehicles carried water that wouldn't fit in the truck. We were greeted at the Armory by members of the Connecticut National Guard, who helped unload the truck.

By day's end, 23 youth and 14 adults had put in a total of 192 hours of work during the collection. We had collected donations with an estimated value of \$25,000! We headed home a little tired, knowing we had done our good deed for the day!



Military Matters



**Connecticut
National Guard
Soldier-Airman
Support Center**

Supporting Guard Members
And Their Families

Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) Lifecycle Funds

A new Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) investment opportunity has been announced which can help you feel more secure about your retirement – the TSP Lifecycle (L) Funds.

L Funds are asset allocation portfolios with investment mixes tailored to a participant's target "time horizon," i.e., the expected date to start withdrawal of retirement savings. Generally, the lifecycle approach stresses the potential for higher yields while the participant is younger. Automatic adjustments incrementally shift the mix toward more conservative investments as the participant nears retirement age.

Using professionally determined investment mixes (allocations) that are tailored to different time horizons, the L Funds will diversify participant accounts among the five existing, "core" TSP investment funds. Earnings will be calculated daily, and there will be a daily share price for each L Fund.

As the pie charts show, five L Funds will be offered. Four of these – L 2010, L 2020, L 2030 and L 2040 – are designed for participants whose time horizons fall within the defined date ranges. Within these four,

the investment mix of each core fund – G, F, C, S, and I – is automatically adjusted each quarter to more conservative, less risky investments as the L Fund's time horizon shortens. Between quarterly adjustments, each core fund's asset allocation is maintained through daily rebalancing to that fund's target percentage of the particular L Fund involved. Over time, the asset allocations for the core funds will gradually approach those of the L Income Fund.

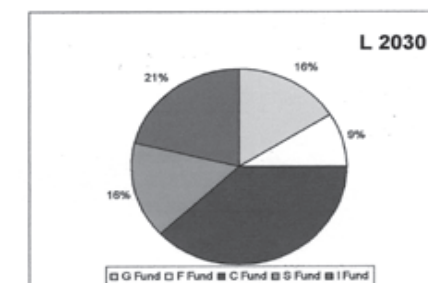
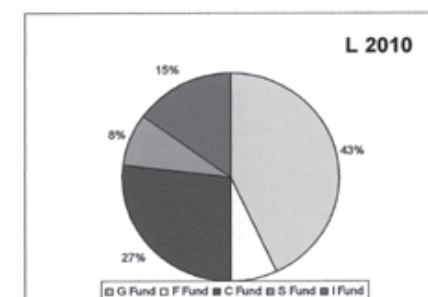
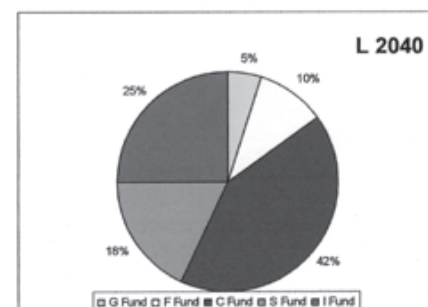
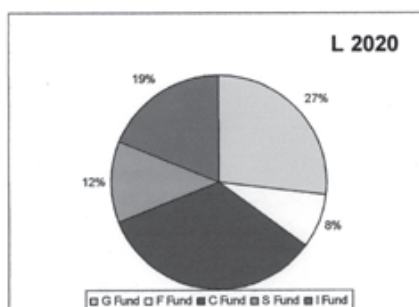
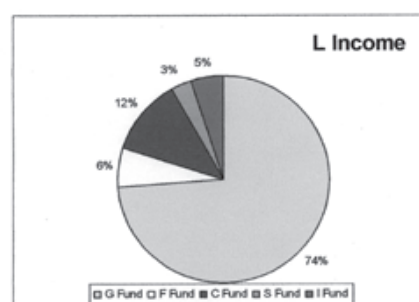
The L Income Fund is designed to produce current income for participants who are already receiving monthly payments from their accounts and those who plan to withdraw or begin withdrawing money from their accounts before 2008. This fund's asset allocation is maintained through daily rebalancing and does not change over time.

Investing in the L Funds is not a guarantee against loss and does not eliminate risk. The L Funds include the same stocks and bonds contained in the core TSP funds. As such, a prudent investor must expect that they will have periods of gain and loss.

Once you have selected your L Fund, you don't need to worry about managing your investments. They are now on "cruise control" and everything is done for you. If you prefer to make your own investment

decisions and manage your account, you can continue to invest directly in the G, F, C, S, and I Funds.

More information on the TSP Lifecycle Funds is available at www.tsp.gov or by contacting the Human Resources Office at (860) 878-6738 or (860) 878-6735.



DoD announces one-year open enrollment for SBP

DoD News Release

The Department of Defense announced today that military retirees, who opted out of some or all their Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) coverage, will have another opportunity to elect coverage during a one-year open enrollment period from Oct. 1, 2005 through Sept. 30, 2006.

Upon a retiree's death, SBP provides an annuity of up to 55 percent of the military retired pay. Until recently, the annuity for a surviving spouse age

62 or older was reduced to 35 percent to reflect the availability of Social Security benefits. This reduction will phase out by April 2008, and the full 55 percent benefit will be paid regardless of the spouse's age in accordance with the Fiscal 2005 National Defense Authorization Act.

Current non-participants will be able to elect any coverage they could have elected previously upon retiring from active service or upon receiving notification of eligibility for reserve retired pay at age 60.

If they have a reduced election, they may increase their coverage. A participant with child only coverage may add a spouse or former spouse to their coverage, and a member may add child coverage to spouse or former spouse coverage.

But those who took SBP coverage and later elected to terminate that coverage are not Open enrollment elections require a lump sum buy-in premium as well as future monthly premiums. The lump sum equates to all back premiums, plus interest, from the date of original eligibility to make an election plus any amount needed to protect the Military Retirement Fund. The latter amount applies almost exclusively to those paying fewer than seven years of back payments.

The lump sum buy-in premium can be paid over a two-year period.

Monthly premiums for spouse or former spouse coverage will be 6.5 percent of the coverage elected, the same premium paid by those currently enrolled. Reserve component members under age 60 and not yet eligible for retired pay do not pay back premiums or interest, but must pay a monthly SBP premium "add-on" once their retired pay starts.

Elections are effective the first day of the month after the election is received, but no earlier than Oct. 1, 2005. An election is void if the retiree dies in the two years following an election and all premiums are refunded to the designated survivor.

To make an open enrollment election, a retiree must complete and submit a DD Form 2656-9, "Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) and Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan (RCSBP) Open Enrollment Election." The form is available electronically at www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/infomgt/forms/eforms/dd2656-9.pdf

For assistance with the form, members should contact the retiree activities office for their service.

Mail the completed form to the address specified on the form.

Applicants will be formally notified of their cost and have 30 days from the date of the notice to cancel the election by notifying the Defense Finance and Accounting Service or the reserve component, as applicable, in writing.



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TODAY
TO VOLUNTEER
YOUR SKILLS**





CHIEF MASTER SGT.
WANDA WAWRUCK

Enlisted Update

Motorcycle Safety Benefit & Other Benefits

Over the past year I have focused many of my articles on motorcycle safety and safety in general. One of the many reasons is to provide a better awareness to current riders and non-riders of the need to receive formal training. Secondly, over the past few years, there has been an increased interest in riding and overall the armed services have had many serious and fatal results. Within this article, I hope to highlight a great benefit that many of our Connecticut Guardsmen may not be aware is available to you through the Connecticut Motorcycle Safety Course. I will also highlight professional organizations that provide benefits to you through membership.

The Connecticut Motorcycle Safety Course for Guardsmen is managed by the 103d Fighter Wing (FW) Safety office. Through a partnership with the Department of Transportation (DoT) and the Northwest Community College (NWCC) this course is offered, **FREE** of charge to all Connecticut National Guardsmen. NOTE: Registration and enrollment fees are \$165 for all other Connecticut residents. Each year, the course runs from April to October and is conducted at the 103 FW located in East Granby.

Once the application is processed, the students receive their assigned class date through NWCC. We are currently authorized two seats per class; however, with the current interest, we may have the opportunity to increase the numbers in the next year. During this season, we have graduated ten students and have approximately seventeen awaiting class. As you are aware, this course is a mandatory requirement for those who wish to ride their bikes on an active military facility. In addition, the course is mandatory for all active duty members who ride motorcycles regardless of whether they are on or off duty.

In the Summer edition of "Road & Rec Magazine" a fellow Guardsman and Police Officer writes: "I cannot stress enough

the importance of training. Riding a motorcycle involves many similar skills used in driving a car, and many more that have nothing to do with an automobile."

This individual found that receiving motorcycle training after riding for many years could have helped him in many ways had he taken it initially. Hopefully many of you will take advantage of this opportunity and receive the proper training before you ride. The only stipulation is that if you are scheduled for a class and for some reason can not attend, please notify NWCC immediately so that those on a waiting list may take advantage of the training opportunity. For more detailed information on this program, you may contact Chief Johnstone, 103d FW Safety office at 860-292-2777, christopher.johnstone@ctbrad.ang.af.mil or the FW intranet.

In addition to benefits we receive through partnerships within the community, we also receive benefits through becoming a member of professional organizations. Two organizations that are partnered to support Guardsmen are the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) and the National Guard Association of Connecticut (NGACT). Together with our congressmen and senators, these organizations work extremely hard for us. The NGACT lobbies for us within the State and EANGUS lobbies for us on a National level. These organizations want to ensure we have the proper training, state-of-the-art equipment and benefits. Together they make a great team, but they can not do it alone. Your membership provides an additional tool for these organizations when lobbying some difficult and costly enhancements to our benefits (including the recent BRAC announcements). For more information on how your membership can help, contact Sgt. 1st Class Debbi Newton at 860-548-3251 or ngact2005@yahoo.com or EANGUS at www.eangus.org.

As always, I wish everyone well and ask that you continue to keep our deployed service members and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

Promotions

Air National Guard

To Senior Master Sergeant

Eric B. Munsell, 103rd CES Daniel S. Walsh, 103rd Maint. Ops

To Master Sergeant

Donald M. Liddell, 103rd Log Readiness Robert A. Daunais, 103rd Comm Flight
Gregory K. Edgerly, 103rd Aircraft Maint John M. Gasiorek, 103rd SFS

To Technical Sergeant

Runuel D. Bibby, 103rd Aircraft Maint Christopher A. Mastroianni, 1043rd Maint
Christopher D. Newman, 103rd Maint Ops Gabriel M. Speciale, 103rd Log Readiness

To Staff Sergeant

Lars N. Owren, 103rd Aircraft Maint Michael A. Schumann, 103rd Log Readiness

To Senior Airman

Jospeh M. Bennett, 103rd Log Readiness

Army National Guard

To Sergeant Major

Brian Gran, HHC 1/102nd

To Master Sergeant

Ronald Summa, HHC 192nd Chem Bn

To Sergeant 1st Class

Gregory Edwards, 1109th AVCRAD

To Staff Sergeant

Joseph Phaneuf, 250th Engr Co Jason Williams, 1109th AVCRAD
Anthony Butcher, 1109th AVCRAD Christopher Guilfoil, 1109th AVCRAD
Geoffrey Davis, HHC, 242nd Engr Bn Derek Walden, C/242nd Engr
David Earle, C/242nd Engr Patrick Kloc, A/242nd Engr
Dirk Brouwer, A/242nd Engr Michael Tabak, A/242nd Engr
Robert Angus, C/242nd Engr Stephen Clark, C/242nd Engr
Michael Kaman, C/242nd Engr Carlton Overton, JFHQ-CT

To Sergeant

Tessifya Dickenson, HHC 143rd ASG Brian Hague, HHD 192nd Engr
Travis Snata, C/242nd Engr Daniel Badiali, C/242nd Engr
Justin Quinn, A/242nd Engr James Deveau, c/242nd Engr
Dillin Zimmerman, c/242nd Engr Sean Mason, c/242nd Engr
Brian Kennedy, c/242nd Engr Caitanya Kommuru, A/242nd Engr
Kyle Lamontagne, A/242nd Engr James Johnson, C/242nd Engr
Cory Anderson, A/242nd Engr Louis Gold, A/242nd Engr
Richard Monckton, A/242nd Engr Garrick Bergen, A/242nd Engr
Micah Uhrlass, Det 1, 250th Engr Armando Bettini, 143rd MP
Harrison Formiglio, 143rd MP Michael DiPietro, 143rd MP
Patrick Hackett, 143rd MP Darren Kenyon, 143rd MP
Marissa Foglia, 143rd MP Jonathon Nemergut, 143rd MP
Joseph Herndon, 143rd MP Nathan Soucy, 143rd MP
Nicholas Uccello, 143rd MP Jonathon Burbank, 134th MP
Michael Piccirillo, 143rd MP Patrick McGoldrick, 143rd MP
Levi Saucier, 143rd MP Benjamin Rogers, 143rd MP
Jeremiah Brown, 143rd MP Sean Orcutt, 143th MP
Allahna Torres, 134th MP Albert Kim, 143rd MP
Stanquinto Sudduth, 134th MP



There is a New Face at HRO



To schedule an appointment for an ID Card or to update your DEERS information contact:

Senior Airman Amanda Douville at 860-878-6725 or email her at Amanda.douville@ct.ngb.army.mil

Homefront

In defense of Connecticut's children:
12 years of Aviation Career Education

MASTER SGT SETH HEILAND
DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION

After twelve years, Groton area youth still get a rise from attending the Aviation Career Education (ACE) Camp.

From July 18 through July 22, the Connecticut Army and Air National Guard, in conjunction with the Federal Aviation Association (FAA), Department of Transportation (DOT), and the Groton City Department, combined efforts to host their tenth annual ACE Camp for the youth of the Groton area.

Students from the ages of 11 through 14 spent the week learning about the various aviation career opportunities that are available to them if they lead a drug free lifestyle.

The week began at Groton City Hall where Mayor Dennis Popp welcomed students and parents at the opening ceremony. FAA instructors introduced the students to the history of flight, theory of flight, and the effects of weather on flight.

Tuesday the students traveled to the 103rd Fighter Wing, at Bradley Airport where they learned how to recognize and read flight instruments and how to plan their flight. They also spent the afternoon building model rockets and visiting the New England Air Museum.

Wednesday the day was again spent at the 103rd Fighter Wing. The students were given the opportunity to tour the base, talk to pilots, crew chiefs and other guard personnel. The students were also given a tour of the Army Aviation Support Facility and Bradley International Airport. During the tour they were taken directly out to the runway and shown the operations of the airport.

On Thursday the entire day was spent in the air. With the assistance of certified flight instructors, the students got hands-on flight time in a Cessna flown out of the Groton-New London Airport.

The week ended with the firing of the rockets that were built on Tuesday and a graduation ceremony where a \$200 achievement award from the Aero Club of New England was awarded to the student who showed the best discipline, leadership and enthusiasm during the week. This year the achievement award was presented to Crystal Roman of New London.


The Groton area youth were introduced to many exciting career opportunities and positively influenced by dedicated volunteers. With continued support and dedication like this, the ACE Camp hopes to continue its efforts in communicating the message of how important it is to remain drug free for many more years to come.


TOPOFF 3 - April 2005

Connecticut

American Red Cross


Disaster Relief







We extend our sincerest appreciation for your valuable assistance and service during TOPOFF 3. This large scale disaster exercise could not have been possible without your extreme dedication to helping others and your community. Thank you!

Army National Guard


Mario J. Bruno, Operations Manager





OFFICERS CLUB OF CONNECTICUT

Hartford, Ct (860) 249-3634

SEPTEMBER 2005

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
CIRQUE DU SOLEIL OCT 15 (7 TICKETS LEFT)						
HAVING A PARTY OR FUNDRAISER CALL THE O'CLUB						
"WICKED" AT THE BUSHNELL DEC 17TH \$110 EACH						
CLUB DINE & DANCE NITE SEPT 30 \$20 EACH						
4	5 Labor Day CLUB CLOSED	6 CLUB REOPENS LUNCH AND BAR 6:00 PM Quiet Bedmen Dinner	7 430 - 630 PM Dept of Health Reception	8	9	10 Birthday Party NG Drill Family Day at Camp Reel
11 Grandparent's Day	12 8 AM Breakfast Rep Tom Reynolds	13 12 N Ladies OClub Lunch	14 5 PM Fundraiser Andy Fleischmann	15 Military order of Legions Mtg 12 MOAA Lunch 530 O'Club Board of Gov meeting	16 CLUB NITE BEEFEATERS SPECIAL DINNER WITH MUSIC AND DANCING Res: 249 3634 \$25 each	17
18	19	20 7 PM State Democrats Town Chairman mtg	21	22 First Day of Autumn 5 PM Fund Raiser Melissa Ovals	23 AUSA	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 130 PM Buffet Lunch Sue Wernich Cirque du Soleil 6 PM Club Dine and Dance Nite \$20 Buffet Dinner w/ Music to dance by	
Club reopens Sept 6 with Lunch daily 1130 -2 PM Bar & Lounge open at lunch and 4PM - Closing September 16 Beefeaters Nite at the O'Club						

OFFICERS CLUB OF CONNECTICUT

Presents

BEEFEATERS NIGHT

SEPTEMBER 16, 2005

COCKTAILS 6 - 7 PM DINNER 7 PM

Menu

Appetizer

Assorted Cheeses, Crackers & Fruit

Salad

Chopped Steakhouse Salad

Entrees:

Choice: Carved Lobster stuffed Beef Wellington

Beef Tenderloin stuffed with Maine Lobster meat and
Mushroom duxelle, wrapped in puff pastry

Fried Cape Cod Bay Scallops w/ tartar sauce

Saute Chicken Breast au Poivre

Twice Baked Potatoes Potatoes, Fresh Vegetable Medley


Banana Foster, Chocolate Mousse Assorted Pies & Cakes


Popovers Coffee, Tea

\$25.00 (plus tax & tip)

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The Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System

DEERS is a computerized database of military sponsors, families and others worldwide who are entitled under the law to TRICARE benefits. DEERS registration is required for TRICARE eligibility.

Registration in DEERS

Active-duty and retired service members are automatically registered in DEERS, but they must take action to register their family members and ensure they are correctly entered into the database. Errors in the DEERS database can cause problems with TRICARE claims, so it is critical to maintain your DEERS information.

Verifying and Updating DEERS Information

Beneficiaries can verify their DEERS information by contacting their regional TRICARE regional contractor,* local TRICARE service center or the nearest uniformed services personnel office (ID card facility). Sponsors or registered family members may make address changes; however, only the sponsor can add or remove a family member from DEERS, and proper documents are required such as a marriage certificate, divorce decree and/or birth certificate. There are several ways beneficiaries can update their DEERS information. They include:

§ Visit the local uniformed services personnel office or contact the Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office (DSO) at 1-800-538-9552. You can find the nearest uniformed services personnel office at: <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl>.

§ Fax address changes to DEERS at 1-831-655-8317.

§ Mail the address change to the Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office, ATTN: COA, 400 Gigling Road, Seaside, CA 93955-6771.

§ Go online at: www.tricare.osd.mil/DEERS to update your information.

DEERS Verification Changes for Unremarried Former Spouses

The Social Security number (SSN) used to verify TRICARE eligibility in the DEERS for unremarried former spouses has changed. As of Oct. 1, 2003, DEERS reflects TRICARE eligibility for these beneficiaries using the unremarried former spouse's own SSN and not the former sponsor's. Health care information is filed under the unremarried former spouse's own SSN and name. These beneficiaries now use their own name and SSN to schedule medical appointments and to file TRICARE claims. The current Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card, DD Form 1173, held by the unremarried former spouse is still valid until it expires. Upon renewal, the unremarried former spouse will be issued a replacement Department of Defense/Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card, DD Form 2765.

Unremarried former spouses may contact or visit the nearest identification card issuing facility (locations may be found online at www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl for questions or assistance.

Unremarried former spouses should always keep their DEERS information current. For questions regarding their medical records, they should contact the military treatment facility and medical records department where their DoD medical records are stored. Uniformed Services Family Members and Survivors Over Age 75 Receive Permanent Identification Cards

A permanent United States Uniformed Services Identification (ID) card will be available September 2005 for all eligible Uniformed Services family members and survivors of deceased personnel, who are age 75 and over.

Beneficiaries currently in possession of a valid ID card may obtain the new permanent ID card within 90 days of expiration. The availability of the new permanent ID card does not in any way invalidate a current ID card, nor will it impact any associated benefits/entitlements. Beneficiaries should apply for a new ID card when their existing card is within 90 days of expiring.

It is important for surviving family members to update their personal information in DEERS when the active duty or retired sponsor dies. For more information, beneficiaries may read the Aug. 25, 2005 Permanent ID Card News Release. Additionally, the DEERS Support Office can be reached by telephone at 1-800-538-9552, or information can be found online at www.tricare.osd.mil/DEERS.

Passing of the Colors



The colors of the 85th Troop Command are passed along during a change of command ceremony at the State Armory in Hartford on August 7th.

Pictured are (from left to right): The Adjutant General Brig. Gen. Thaddeus J. Martin, incoming commander Col. Steven D. Anderson, CSM Duane Haverstock, and outgoing commander Col. Daniel J. McHale. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Steve Markowski, 65th PCH)

Gov. Rell announces plans for 'Stand Down' event to support veterans and returning troops

Gov. M. Jodi Rell has announced that "Stand Down 2005" – an event designed to provide assistance and information to veterans and service men and women recently returned from military service overseas – will be held Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 at the Veterans' Home in Rocky Hill.

"We are making this announcement well in advance of 'Stand Down 2005' so we can spread the word and make certain all veterans and service men and women know they are invited and encouraged to attend. We owe everyone who has served in the military a debt of gratitude for the contributions they have made to the defense of our nation," Gov. Rell said.

"One way we can say 'thank you' is by organizing this 'Stand Down' and making a full range of support and assistance readily available to our veterans and service people. I thank Commissioner Schwartz and our Department of Veterans' Affairs for taking the lead and putting together this important event."

"Stand Down 2005" will consist of two sessions:

· Friday, Sept. 30, 7 a.m. – 3 p.m.

This session will focus on the needs of homeless veterans

· Saturday, Oct. 1, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

This session will focus on support for returning servicemen and women and for the families of those who have been deployed overseas

Representatives of several state agencies, including the Department of Veterans' Affairs, Department of Labor and the Connecticut National Guard, as well as the federal VA will be at "Stand Down 2005." They will provide everything from medical screenings to information about veterans' benefits and employment and educational opportunities.

The event is being called 'Stand Down' because this was a phrase used during the Vietnam War to refer to a period when troops were removed from the battlefield for rest and relaxation.

Transportation will be provided – free of charge – to and from the event from key locations. Details on the schedule will be announced in coming weeks.

Additional details can be obtained by calling the Department of Veterans' Affairs at (860)721-5939 or 1-800-550-0000.

Army National Guard Members

Interested in

Playing

HOCKEY?


All ability levels- beginners welcome

C or D league

Play in Cromwell or Newington

Weekly Games

Men & women welcome



Contact:

1st Lt. Rick Marshall

102nd INF/C Co.

Phone: (860)524-4834

E-mail: Richard.Marshall3@ct.ngb.army.mil

Guarding Your Rights

Legal Affairs: *Identity Theft; Safeguard your identity in the digital age*

OC JOSEPH E BROOKS
LEGAL ASSISTANT

The days when “phishing” and “pharming” were nothing more than noble professions are long gone. In the digital age they are cons that the internet savvy Soldier must be aware of.

“Phishing” and “pharming” are the new tools used by con artists to commit identity theft and they are primarily targeted to people who make purchases or manage accounts over the internet.

“Phishing” is based on the concept that the con artist sends some form of “bait” through the e-mail to their potential target. The “phishers” bait their targets by duplicating the appearance of reputable companies. They will often steal logos or entire web pages from common internet based companies such as e-bay, yahoo or amazon.com.

Once they obtain the trust of their victim they will claim to need verification of vital personal information. The will often request that the victim respond with their social security number, credit card or other account information. Once they have this information they can do serious damage to their victims’ credit histories.

“Pharming” is very similar to “phishing” except that the con artist does not need to have one particular victim. The “pharmers” instead use coding and computer viruses to redirect their victims away from legitimate internet business to their own false web sites.

The victim is usually not aware that they have been taken advantage of. The victim is fooled into thinking that they have conducted their business with a real company. In reality they are conned into providing their financial information to a criminal.

“Pharmers” also obtain new victims through the ones they have already taken advantage of. Because “pharming” takes advantage of known vulnerabilities in computer programs they can duplicate their efforts by targeting the address lists of their victims.

Soldiers are vulnerable to internet fraud now more than ever. This includes Soldiers on the home front as well as those in theater.

Soldiers are deploying with more technology than ever. With the increasing number of laptop computers, wireless networks and internet connections that are present in theater more Soldiers are becoming victims of identity theft. The

technology available allows Soldiers to pay bills and make purchases online but it can be an unnecessary stressor on the force when a Soldier discovers that they have fallen victim.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has recognized that Soldiers should not have to worry about becoming the victim of a con artist while deployed in a theater of operation. The FTC has initiated a program called “Active Duty Alerts” to help military personnel protect themselves while on deployment.

The program is available to any service member who is “away from their usual duty station.” The FTC is currently working with nationwide credit reporting agencies to monitor the credit reporting of deployed Soldiers and to identify possible cases of fraud and identity theft.

The service member is able to contact one of the participating credit reporting agencies and place the alert on their accounts. Once an alert is placed the credit agency monitors credit reports and requests in order to identify fraud or theft. These companies can identify cases of identity theft and notify the victim before there is substantial damage to the service member’s credit history.

An amendment to the Fair Credit Reporting Act requires creditors to verify personal information when they identify and “active duty alert.” The creditor must then verify the service member’s identity before they are allowed to use their credit.

“Active Duty Alerts” are valid for one year unless extended or cancelled by the service member.

The amount of e-commerce done by service members both deployed and on the home front means that service members need to be aware of the dangers that exist. It can often take months or years to repair the damage done by identity theft. To learn more about how to be protected from identity thieves go to the FTC web site at www.ftc.gov/credit.



This article is not intended as and does not constitute legal advice. Specific legal issues are unique to each person and factual situation. Persons with legal issues are encouraged to personally consult with an attorney.

Twenty Fourth Annual SENIOR NONCOMMISSIONED OFFICER FORMAL DINING-IN

DATE:	6 October 2005 (Thursday Evening)
TIME:	1830 Hours
PLACE:	Aqua-Turf Club, Southington, Connecticut
COST:	FIFTY DOLLARS (\$50.00)
ELIGIBILITY:	Noncommissioned Officers and Chief Petty Officers, E-7 and above. All eligible ARNG and ANG NCOs are expected to attend. CPOs are invited to attend. Retirees are most welcome.
UNIFORM:	Army Dress Blues with Bow Tie or Army Greens with white shirt and black bow tie. Appropriate attire for other services. Retirees may wear the uniform or a business suit as meets their desires.
HOST:	State Command Sergeant Major, Connecticut Army National Guard CSM Raymond P. Zastaury, Jr.
GUEST SPEAKER:	SGM D. Scott Frye – Senior Enlisted Advisor NORAD/USNORTHCOM
APPLICATION DUE DATE:	Military Protocol requires prompt response (within 72 hours of receipt of flyer).

No responses accepted after 30 September 2005

The formal military dinner ceremony known as the “Dining-In” is an old and traditional military affair believed to have its origins in medieval England. The Dining-In is now recognized as an occasion to foster ceremony, tradition, and camaraderie within an organization and to emphasize their importance in the life of a service member. It is an excellent occasion to bid farewell to service members who have departed, to welcome new ones, and to recognize the achievements of military service and individual members. Please note the guest speaker!

The cost of the affair includes a full course dinner (main entree: Roast Prime Ribs of Beef, or a fish entree upon special request) and refreshments before and during dinner. A cash bar will be available after dinner. On receipt of your application, you will receive a mailing that will include specific uniform and protocol information.

The Aqua-Turf Club is located on Mulberry Street in Southington, Connecticut. It is a short distance from Routes 84, 691, 10, and 322. SEE ATTACHED STRIP MAP FOR DETAILS!

Your support of the only Senior Noncommissioned Officer activity, the Dining-In, has been superb. It is requested that you continue to support this, your Dining-In, and continue the great tradition. Submit your application to attend as soon as possible after receipt of this notice. Early response enables the committee to better plan the Dining-In and make it a more enjoyable evening for all.

NOTE: Seating will be arranged with unit integrity or upon a specific request for tables of ten. Appropriate fines will be imposed for violations of the Mess. Cost of fines will range from \$1.00 to whatever is deemed appropriate by the President or Mister Vice.

We look forward to seeing you there!

DETACH AND MAIL PORTION BETWEEN DOUBLE LINES

I will attend the Senior NCO Dining-In on 6 October 2005.

My check in the amount of \$50.00 is attached.

NAME: _____ RANK: _____

Home address: _____

_____ Zip Code: _____

UNIT: _____

Indicate your preference for Fish in lieu of Roast Beef: _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: “HQ Activities Fund”

Mail returns to: State Command Sergeant Major
Connecticut National Guard
National Guard Armory
360 Broad St.
Hartford, CT 06105-3795

PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD CONCERNING THE DINING-IN!

Let other E7s and above NCOs and CPOs, who have never attended, know about this grand affair. NCOs and CPOs make it happen!

Inside OCS

Class 51 Completes Phase I, learns importance of confidence

OC JULIA M. COOLEY
OCS CLASS 51

OCS Class 51 underwent Phase One of Officer Candidate School during the last two weeks of July. During the three Phase Zero drills leading up to Phase One, Officer Candidates (OC) were prepared mentally and physically for the rigors of this initial phase of training. We were given a chance to get the required paperwork in order, work on our APFT scores, receive Land Navigation courses, and most importantly, begin to lead Soldiers. I found that, despite the challenges that encompassed our first few days of Phase One, our class was ready for what was to come.

I enlisted into the 102nd Army National Guard Band in June of last year for the musical experience. As a music major at the University of Connecticut and part of a family with a long military tradition, I thought the experience would be beneficial to my career and to my character.

Upon my return from AIT, I was inspired by excellent training I had received from officers at the

Military School of Music and began thinking of becoming an officer.

I joined OCS Class 51 hoping to use my education and experience to influence American Soldiers positively. With a desire to instruct and lead, I began my OCS experience in April, anticipating challenges and exceptional training. I soon came to realize that my anticipations would be met.

Our class quickly realized that teamwork and communication is paramount to success in OCS. Although we are assessed individually, we could not possibly succeed on an individual basis without unit cohesion and effectively working together to accomplish assigned tasks.

Split into three platoons with OCs from New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, Delaware, Virginia, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island, and Illinois, we were faced with the challenge of working together with people we have never met.

During the first few days, we began to learn how to do this while using the Chain of Command, keeping uniformity between all OCs, keeping accountability, accomplishing tasks in tight time frames, and making and implementing decisions during a highly stressful, mentally and physically fatiguing environment.

The first week of Phase I consisted mostly of classes, formations, drill and ceremony, and constant instruction from our TAC (Teach Assess Council) Instructors. As Platoon Sergeant for the first 36 hours, I experienced the stress but also the excitement of marching the platoon, keeping accountability at all times, supervising tasks to squad leaders, and making quick decisions that influenced the 26 officer candidates in First Platoon, all under the watchful supervision of not only our four platoon TAC Instructors, but also TAC Instructors from the rest of company.

The importance of confidence, decisiveness, knowledge, skills, and values was drilled into us and learned most applicably through leadership roles. Most OCs held at least two leadership positions in the company Chain of Command, ranging from Squad Leader to Company Commander, and lasting for 24 hours.

We moved from a classroom situation to a field environment during the second week, when we relocated to Stones Ranch for our Pre-Commissioning Common Core Tasks and Land Navigation portion of training. Connecticut candidates were primed for this

through Phase Zero preparatory training as well as an additional class trip to Stones Ranch a week before Phase One.

Candidates worked through challenges in terrain, injuries, sore muscles and fatigue, and finally the five-mile ruck march. During the field training, instructors introduced infantry tactics and candidates were given the opportunity to lead Soldiers through tactical formations and reacting to enemy contact.

Through OCS's unique combination of learning while leading, I along with my fellow candidates, have been able to detect personal weaknesses and strengths, and to learn to overcome the weaknesses and build on the strengths. OCS demands excellence in the mind and body of its candidates, and coming through the other side of Phase I, I am confident that Class 51 has learned to step up to the task of military excellence in the midst of stress.

Anyone interested in joining OCS may contact Officer Candidate Cooley at (860) 459-8114 or Officer Candidate Brooks at (860) 493-2770 or joseph.brooks7@ct.ngb.army.mil.

Why Diversity?

Hispanic Heritage Celebration

On Friday, Oct. 14, the Connecticut National Guard – in conjunction with the United States Postal Service and Eastern Connecticut State University will host its 2005 Hispanic Heritage Celebration in Shafer Hall Auditorium on the Campus of Eastern Connecticut State University in Willimantic, Connecticut. This event is scheduled to take place between 9:00am and 11:00 am.

This is a great opportunity to learn about and experience the Hispanic culture, please join us in this celebration. The Keynote speaker for this year's event is Marilda Lara Gandara, President of the Aetna Foundation. Also included is a cultural Hispanic dance musical presentation by an accomplished Connecticut artist. There will be a presentation of awards for winners of the "Recognition of Connecticut Hispanic Students in Academics" with a reception following the formal program, during which a sampling of an array of Hispanic foods will be offered.

Gandara joined Aetna in 1978 as an attorney, specializing in real estate, workout and environmental law. During the 1990s, she was Managing Director and Vice President in Aetna's Real Estate Investments area, where she was responsible for the company's \$5 billion national commercial real estate problem loan portfolio and \$1 billion in hotel properties and mortgages. Prior to that, she worked in

Aetna's Corporate Planning and Financial Reporting Department, where she was responsible for six strategic business units.

Ms. Gandara is co-chair of the Latina Roundtable, an organization of professional and entrepreneurial Latinas engaged in political, economic and philanthropic efforts with the goal of having a positive influence on the economic status of Latinos in the United States through collective action and impact. She is Treasurer of the Latina Roundtable Federal PAC and Chair of the Latina Roundtable State of Connecticut PAC. Both political action committees support candidates from both parties who are in a position to influence economic issues on behalf of Latinos and work to increase the number of Latinos candidates with strong potential to hold high-level office.

The United States Postal Service will be displaying its Let's Dance, Bailemos Stamp Series. The images on the stamps trace their roots back to the Caribbean and honor the contributions Latin dance has made in American culture. Each stamp was designed by a different Latino artist who colorfully reinterpreted one of four popular dances: meringue, salsa, cha-cha-cha and mambo.

We encourage both military and civilian participation at this event, as it is open to the public. Please RSVP to Sgt. Ivette Rosario at (860) 878-6721, by Monday, Oct. 11.

The Connecticut National Guard
in partnership with the
Connecticut Department of Veterans' Affairs
invites you to

"CONNECTICUT CARES FOR ITS OWN"

2005

Saturday, October 1st, 2005
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Veterans' Home, Rocky Hill, CT

Join us on Saturday, October 1st, as we bring together service providers from Federal, State and local agencies who each have something to offer our veteran population.

Are you in need of medical treatment?
Do you have a question about your VA benefits?
Are you in need of re-adjustment counseling?
Don't have a job?

If you answered yes to any one of these questions - please join us!

Your family, to include children, are also most welcome. Free food, free transportation and free activities for your children are all available!

Contact the CTNG Family Program Office for details and to RSVP!

Connecticut National Guard Family Program
800-858-2677

Health & Fitness



Medical Notes



Baby Bottle Tooth Decay

SUBMITTED BY LT. COL. DAVID L. FRIED
CTARNG DENTIST

Baby Bottle Tooth Decay (BBTD), also known as Early Childhood Caries, is a catastrophic circumstance that affects infants too young to make decisions on their diet and eating habits.

Parents must be in touch with good nutrition to protect infants from the devastation which can occur. Generalized



cavities and infections cause pain, inability to eat, loss

of self-esteem and can be life-threatening.

When a baby first gets teeth at age six months, the child is susceptible to cavities. In some unfortunate cases, children have experienced severe tooth decay that has resulted in dental restorations and extractions.

If teeth are infected or lost too early due to baby bottle tooth decay, your child may develop poor eating habits, speech problems, crooked teeth, and damaged adult teeth. Unfortunately, children who have extreme dental needs at an early age can develop dental phobias as they age.

Traumatic early dental experiences can contribute to life-long avoidance of visiting

the dentist. Healthy baby teeth will usually result in healthy permanent teeth. Through the use of a few good hygiene tips, decay can be prevented.

Baby bottle tooth decay is caused by the frequent and long-term exposure of a child's teeth to liquids containing sugars. Among these liquids are milk, formula, fruit juice, sodas, and other sweetened drinks. The sugars in these liquids pool around the infant's teeth and gums, feeding the bacteria that cause plaque.

Every time a child consumes a sugary liquid, acid attacks the teeth and gums. After numerous attacks, tooth decay can begin.

The condition also is associated with breast-fed infants who have prolonged feeding habits or with children whose pacifiers are frequently dipped in honey, sugar or syrup.

The sweet fluids left in the mouth increases the chances of cavities while the infant is sleeping.

Giving an infant a sugary drink at nap or nighttime is harmful because during sleep, the flow of saliva decreases, allowing the sugary liquids to linger on the child's teeth for an extended period of time. Severely decayed teeth may need to be extracted.

Prevention is the key to preventing this unfortunate situation. Never allow children



to fall asleep with a bottle containing milk, formula, juice or other sweetened liquids. Clean and massage the baby's gums to help establish healthy teeth and to aid in teething. Begin the process of cleaning a baby's mouth, even before teeth have erupted. This trains a child in early oral care habits and makes it easier to keep good habits in place.

Wrap a moistened gauze square or washcloth around the finger and gently massage the gums and gingival tissues. This should be done once a day. Plaque removal activities should begin upon eruption of the first baby tooth.

When brushing a child's teeth, use a soft toothbrush and a pea-shaped amount of fluoride toothpaste. It is a good idea for parents to bring their child to the dentist when the child is between six and 12 months old in order to get the correct information on health care.

By the time a child is three years old, regular six-month maintenance appointments are recommended.

If a child has baby bottle tooth decay, changes must be made to a child's diet and habits.

A series of small changes over a period

of time is usually easier, and eventually leads to better oral health without making it difficult for the parents or child.

Gradually dilute the bottle contents with water over a period of 2-3 weeks. Once that period is over, if you give a child a bottle, fill it with water or give the child a clean pacifier.

The only safe liquid to put in a bottle to prevent baby bottle tooth decay is water, and there is no problem giving a baby a bottle with water when going to sleep.

Children should be weaned from the bottle as soon as they can drink from a cup, but the bottle should not be taken away too soon, since the sucking motion aids in the

development of facial muscles, as well as the tongue.

Good nutrition, eating habits and dental habits are the key to good health. Visit your family dentist regularly, and develop a good relationship with your Dentist so that your health needs are met. Online information is available at ada.org

Information was provided by the American Dental Association and by the Academy of General Dentistry

Fit for Life: Simple exercise steps keep force fit and mission-ready

SENIOR AIRMAN LUCILIA NAGEL
96TH AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

With the inception of the Air Force Fit to Fight program, Airmen had to adjust to a regular regimen of running, sit-ups, push-ups and other physical activities.

Some Airmen experienced injuries while adjusting to the new standards, resulting in a need to see a physical therapist.

"We saw a lot of knee, back and shoulder injuries at first," said Capt. Bryan Bonzo, a 96th Surgical Operations Squadron physical therapist here who was stationed at Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., when the fitness program was introduced about two years ago.

Those injuries, he said, resulted mainly from the running portion of the new fitness program. The captain attributed the injuries to Airmen's age and lack of physical fitness.

"The majority of the people who came in for treatment were in the 35- to 45-year-old age bracket," Bonzo said. "As people mature, their joints get stiffer, and many people suffered inflammation due to the

impact of their feet against the ground. And younger folks just heal more quickly, so we don't see them as often."

In addition, the captain said the fitness level for many was not high because Airmen were not running as much when the program began.

The good news is these types of injuries can be easily prevented, Bonzo said. All it takes is a few simple steps.

First, he said, a warm-up should be performed before beginning an exercise. Simple things such as a five-minute brisk walk, running in place or jumping jacks will allow the muscles to warm slowly, decreasing the chance for an injury.

"A warm muscle will perform better than a cold one," he said.

Next, people should work on their flexibility by stretching the muscles. This loosens the muscles slightly and takes the pressure off the joints.

"This allows the joints to move properly," he said.

Regular stretching also changes tissue,

making muscles longer and stronger over time.

"Sometimes it's not about flexibility, just weak muscles," he said. It is important to note that the warm-up exercise should be performed before stretching, he said, because it does not help to stretch a cold muscle.

A cool-down should take place after the exercise, which lowers the intensity of the exercise to allow the heart to slow down and the muscles to calm.

The last part of injury prevention is to stretch afterward.

"People should stretch at least once a day, even if not exercising, to maintain their flexibility," Bonzo said.

(Courtesy of Air Force Materiel Command News Service)



Sean Capik demonstrates the proper form for a quadriceps stretch. Physical therapists advise Airmen to stretch before and after exercise to prevent injuries. (U.S. Air Force photo by Sr. Airman LuCelia Nagel)



The Green Guard

Environmental Performance Assessment System

GLENN ELLIOTT
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE SPECIALIST

The Connecticut Army National Guard utilizes EPAS, formerly known as Environmental Compliance Assessment System (ECAS), to identify environmental performance deficiencies and develop corrective action plans for 36 Guard facilities. The ECAS was originally developed by the Department of the Army and was first used by the ARNG in 1992. This program was developed to support the compliance pillar of the Army's Environmental Strategy. Recently the system has changed from a compliance based evaluation to a performance based evaluation, changing the program title to EPAS.

ARNG facilities annually go through an

external or internal performance evaluation. In December 2004, SAIC was contracted by National Guard Bureau to perform an EPAS on the CTARNG. The evaluation consisted of contractors visiting specified facilities and evaluating their environmental compliance performance. The most common compliance findings included a lack of required inspection documentation and improper categorization/storage of universal waste. These issues are known as Class I findings, which have a high potential for regulatory action including fines.

Since 2000 there has been a nine percent reduction in Class I findings throughout the CTARNG. During the 2004 EPAS evaluation the CTARNG received seven positive findings which meant a facility was assessed

and either no compliance findings were found or that a facility had gone above and beyond what was required.

The facilities that received positive findings were the AVCRAD, Camp Hartell 2-126th Aviation Armory, Camp Hartell 712th Armory, Camp Hartell FMS #8A, New Britain Armory, Manchester FMS #7 and Waterbury Armory.

Training covering environmental regulatory requirements is always available through the Environmental Office. Through training and Guard community responsibility the number of compliance related findings will decrease and the number of positive findings will increase.



Let's Celebrate the return of the 143rd ASG!!



Please join us for a lunch buffet on December 3 to celebrate the return of our Soldiers.

Place: The Aqua Turf

556 Mulberry Street

Plantsville, CT

Kay's Pier South Room

Date: December 3, 2005

Time: 11:30-5:00

Cost: \$32.00 per ticket

To Reserve your tickets please call 860-878-6746

The Connecticut National Guard
in partnership with the
Connecticut Department of Veterans' Affairs
invites you to

"CONNECTICUT CARES FOR ITS OWN"

2005

Saturday, October 1st, 2005

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Veterans' Home, Rocky Hill, CT

Join us on Saturday, October 1st, as we bring together service providers from Federal, State and local agencies who each have something to offer our veteran population.

Are you in need of medical treatment?

Do you have a question about your VA benefits?

Are you in need of re-adjustment counseling?

Don't have a job?

If you answered yes to any one of these questions - please join us!

Your family, to include children, are also most welcome. Free food, free transportation and free activities for your children are all available!

Contact the CTNG Family Program Office for details and to RSVP!

Connecticut National Guard Family Program
800-858-2677

Retirees' Voice

Now is time to contact your Congressmen

Sgt. 1st Class (Ret.) John Bednarz

This is the time of the year when Congress is away and you can probably find them in their districts, hopefully being visible where you can maybe get their ear and express your views and let them know how you feel. Personal contact is the best way to lobby your elected officials. Once they return they will again try to get the National Defense Authorization Act for next fiscal year enacted.

Before they left on their August recess the Senate completed action on the Interior Department Authorization Bill which contains \$1.5 billion in supplemental funding for the Department of Veteran's Affairs for the 2005 Fiscal Year. This is a good thing as the VA was a little under funded without this supplement. It has gone on to the President for signature.

The Survivor Benefit Plan has announced

an open enrollment period which begins on October 1, 2005 and ends September 30, 2006. Eligible members are those service members or former service members who on that date are either entitled to retired pay or would be, except for the fact of being under 60 years of age, are not now participating and were previously eligible to elect it, or are participating at less than the maximum level, or are providing child-only coverage. Any member who was previously a participant in SBP but elected to terminate, is not eligible to make an election during this enrollment period.

What elections are allowed and the coverage limitations and other aspects of making an election should be discussed with your services designated agent. There are many ifs, ands or buts that must be considered. You will have to complete a DD

form 2656-9, Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) and Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan (RCSBP) Open Enrollment Election (Public Law 108-375) (Oct. 1, 2005 – Sept. 30, 2006). They must be submitted to the service designated agent indicated in the instructions on the form. Of course all elections must be postmarked by September 30, 2006. What the premiums will be is another story, but it must be assumed that if you are retired less than five years, your premium will be sort of high.

At the time of this writing the BRAC Commission is approaching their September 8 deadline. A good sign, I think, is that the commission has added some other facilities for the purpose of comparing them to the recommended facilities. I understand that The Military Coalition sent the commission a point paper stating its disappointment in some of the methods used by DOD to make their list. It was pointed out that it appears the guidelines that had been set by Congress had been very much sidestepped and ignored. They also strongly objected to the use of the BRAC process to reorganize Military Healthcare. The entire Military Medical situation should be looked at separately from BRAC.

Recently Retired?

Consider coming back to the Connecticut National Guard.

Call your former unit for more information.

Call the

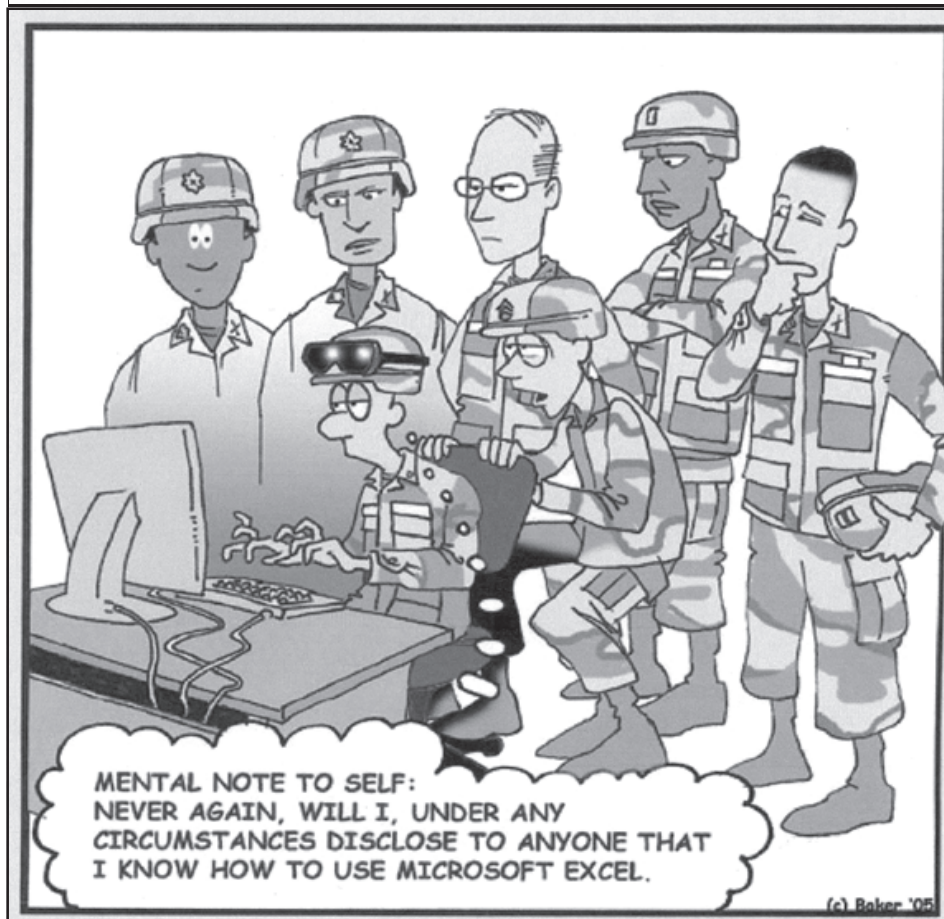
Handyperson Hotline

today to volunteer your skills

(860) 209-0770

2nd Louie

By Bob Rosenburgh



Connecticut National Guard Fulltime Employment Opportunities

The following are Connecticut Army and Air National Guard Technician openings. For a copy of the full Technician vacancy announcements, go to www.ct.ngb.army.mil and click on employment opportunities.

Army National Guard Technician Vacancies

Position Title	Unit	Pay Grade	Closing Date
Secreatry (OA)	AASF	GS-06	Sept. 16, 2005
Aircraft Mechanic (Indef) (7 Positions)	AVCRAD	WG-10/08/05	Sept. 19, 2005
Program Analyst	AASF	WG-09	Sept. 19, 2005
Aircraft Mechanic	AASF	WG-10	Sept. 19, 2005
Heavy Mobile Equipment Repairer	FMS 10	WG-09	Sept. 23, 2005
Heavy Mobile Equipment Repairer	FMS 9	WG-09	Sept. 23, 2005
Heavy Mobile Equipment Repairer	FMS 7	WG-09	Sept. 23, 2005
Automotive Worker	FMS 5	WG-09	Sept. 23, 2005
Heavy Mobile Equipment Repairer	FMS 2	WG-09	Sept. 23, 2005
Heavy Mobile Equipment Repairer (2)	UTES	WG-09	Sept. 23, 2005
Mobile Equipment Repair Inspector	CSMS	WG-11	Sept. 23, 2005
Budget Technician	SMMO	GS-07	Sept. 23, 2005
Management Assistant	SMMO	GS-07	Sept. 23, 2005

Air National Guard Technician Vacancies

Position Title	Unit	Pay Grade	Closing Date
Production Controller	103rd FW	GS-09	Sept. 19, 2005
Sheet Metal Mechanic (Aircraft)	103rd FW	WG-10	Sept. 23, 2005

Listed below are current openings in the Connecticut National Guard AGR program. For a copy of the Military Tour Vacancy Announcement, go the www.ct.ngb.army.mil and click on employment opportunities.

Army National Guard AGR Vacancies

Position Title	Unit	Rank	Area of Consideration
Production Recruiter	Recruiting CMD	SFC/E-7	Open AGR Nationwide
Dog Handler	119th MWD Det	E-4	Open AGR Nationwide
Dog Handler (2 positions)	11th MWD Det	E-4	Open AGR Nationwide
Sr. UH-60 Repairer	AVCRAD	E-4 to E-6	Open AGR Nationwide
Training NCO	248th Engr	E-6	Open AGR Nationwide
Supply Specialist	HHC 1/102nd Inf	E-4	Open AGR Nationwide
Armorer	118th Med Bn	E-4	Open AGR Nationwide
Administrative Specialist	JFHQ-CT	E-4	Open AGR Nationwide
Armorer	248th Engr	E-4	Open AGR Nationwide
Supply Specialist	143rd MP Co	E-4	Open AGR Nationwide
Avionic Mechanic	AVCRAD	E-3 to E-5	Open AGR Nationwide

Air National Guard AGR Vacancies

Position Title	Unit	Rank	Area of Consideration
Security Officer	103rd FW	MSGT-CMSGT	On Board AGR Only
Logistics Management Spec.	103rd FW	E-6 to E-8	On Board AGR Only
Supply Technician	103rd ACS	E-7 or below	Open AGR Nationwide
Telephone Mechanic	103rd ACS	E-6 and below	On Board AGR Only
Administrative Assistant	103rd FW	E-5 to E-7	On Board AGR Only
Production Controller (Aircraft)	103rd FW	E-5 to E-8	On Board AGR Only

NOTE: Other positions with outdated closing dates are also listed on the website. Some of these positions are currently under consideration, and others may have their application dates extended. Keep checking the website and if you have any questions concerning outdated postings, call HRO at (860) 878-6739 or (860) 878-6729.

Coming Events

September

September 2

NGACT Golf Tournament

September 17-19

127th General Conference

National Guard Association of the United States

September 21

Connecticut Day at the Big E

October

October 6

Senior NCO Dining In

Aqua Turf

October 7

Technician Awards and Annual Picnic

October 14

Hispanic Heritage Clebration

Eastern Connecticut State University

November

November 3

Officers' Dining-In

Aqua Turf

November 6

Veteran's Day Parade

November 24

Thanksgiving

December

December 24

Christmas Eve

December 25

Christmas

First Night of Hanukkah

In future issues

State Legislative Successes Part II

Connecticut Guardsman Becomes Senior
Enlisted Advisor for Reserve Affairs in Iraq

Recruiting at Concerts

NGACT Golf Tournament

Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month
previous to publication.

The Connecticut National Guard
in partnership with the
Connecticut Department of Veterans' Affairs
invites you to

"CONNECTICUT CARES FOR ITS OWN"

2005

**Saturday, October 1st, 2005
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Veterans' Home, Rocky Hill, CT**

Join us on Saturday, October 1st, as we bring together service providers from Federal, State and local agencies who each have something to offer our veteran population.

**Are you in need of medical treatment?
Do you have a question about your VA benefits?
Are you in need of re-adjustment counseling?
Don't have a job?**

If you answered yes to any one of these questions - please join us!

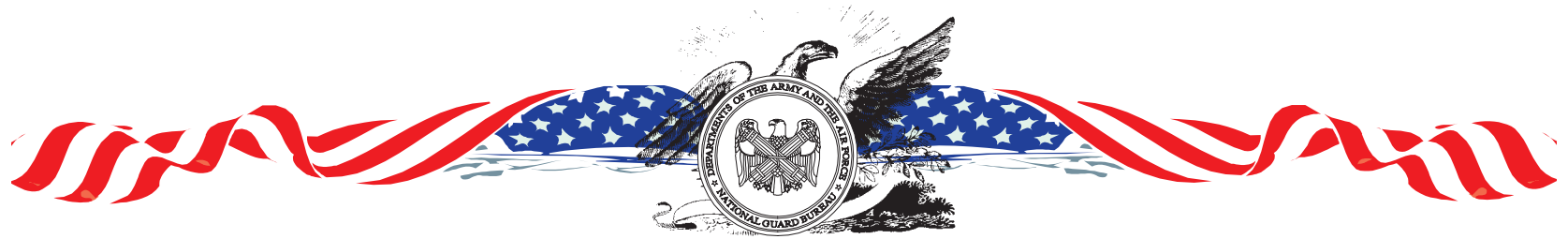
Your family, to include children, are also most welcome. Free food, free transportation and free activities for your children are all available!

Contact the CTNG Family Program Office for details and to RSVP!

**Connecticut National Guard Family Program
800-858-2677**

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Family Deployment Supplement to the Connecticut Guardian

VOL. 6 NO. 9

HARTFORD, CT

SEPTEMBER 2005

DoD launches deployment health, family readiness library

DoD News Release

Servicemembers, their families and their health-care providers have a new online Defense Department resource for deployment health issues.

The DoD's Deployment Health Risk Communication Working Group and the Joint Task Force for Family Readiness Education on Deployments have joined together to create the Deployment Health and Family Readiness Library.

Ellen Embrey, deputy assistant secretary of defense for force health protection and readiness, announced the new online library Aug. 9.

It is intended to provide servicemembers, families and health-care providers a quick and easy way to find information about deployment health and family readiness.

"Information is a powerful tool. We must remain proactive in providing deployment-related health information to better safeguard our servicemembers," she said. "Most people fear the unknown. Through accurate, timely information we are able to ensure that our servicemembers are better equipped to prepare for, cope with, and recover from the myriad health risks faced during deployments."

The online library includes fact sheets, guides and other products on a wide variety of health topics. The topic listing was based on feedback from servicemembers, their families and health-care providers, Embrey said. Information will be added to the site as new topics and areas of concern emerge, she added.

In focus-group meetings, servicemembers and their families have said their need for information varies before, during and after deployments, Embrey said. Leaders, in particular, look for accurate information before the deployment. While servicemembers are deployed, their families are especially interested in getting deployment health-related information, and following deployments, both servicemembers and families look for this information, she said.

Many information sources are available


online, but Embrey said that too often it is difficult to tell if the information source is accurate.

"We are absolutely committed to

providing the best information found in sound science and based on medical evidence," Embrey said. "We want this site to be the authoritative source for deployment

health and family readiness information. This is another step we are taking to ensure that those who protect our country and our freedoms are also protected."

Deployment Health and Family Readiness Library

[Home](#)

[View Product Listing](#) [Search Products by Topic](#) [Advanced Search](#) [Additional Resources](#)

Welcome to the Deployment Health and Family Readiness Library!

The DoD Deployment Health Risk Communication Working Group and the Joint Task Force for Family Readiness Education on Deployments have joined together to create the Deployment Health and Family Readiness Library. This library provides servicemembers, families and healthcare providers a quick and easy way to find the deployment health and family readiness information they value. The contents of this library include fact sheets, guides and other products on a wide variety of topics that we have made available on a single website for your use. We have identified a number of improvements for the library which will be developed in the near future, including a more useful search capability. We hope that you will find the Library useful and look forward to any suggestions you have to make it better.

View Entire Product Listing

Link includes the complete list of deployment health-related product links available by the tri-services

Search Products By Topic

Search for deployment health-related products by topic area

Advanced Search

Search for products by selecting specific search criteria.
Example: Key word, Audience or Lead Organization

Featured Products

- Fact Sheet: Malaria Treatment and Prevention for Unit Leaders
- Fact Sheet: Malaria Treatment and Prevention for Servicemembers and their Families
- Fact Sheet: Malaria Treatment and Prevention for Clinicians and Providers
- Mefloquine Medication Guide: Tablets to Prevent Malaria

Feedback

For any questions or comments, or to suggest a topic to add, please contact us at DHRCWGAdmin@deploymenthealth.osd.mil

The DoD Publications are the result of close collaboration of the following defense organizations:

DoD Deployment Health Support Directorate (DHSD)
DoD Deployment Health Clinical Center (DHCC)
U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine (USACHPPM)
U.S. Navy Naval Environmental Health Center (NHEHC)
U.S. Air Force Institute for Operational Health (AFIOH)
Military Vaccine Agency (MILVAX)
Armed Forces Medical Intelligence Center (AFMIC)
OUSD (P&R)/Military Community & Family Policy (OUSD: MC&FP)

Contact the Library Administrator at DHRCWGAdmin@deploymenthealth.osd.mil.

This service is provided by the [Deployment Health Support Directorate](#).

Deployment Health Support does not necessarily endorse the views in the linked web sites or the content contained therein. Privacy and Security notice.

DoD Health Library Version 2.0



CATHERINE GALASSO

The tiny ant offers huge inspiration

Today, dear men and women of the military, we will learn one of the greatest secrets of success from a tiny ant.

There is no royal road over which we are carried to achieve anything noteworthy, one step at a time and each step in succession. That which steadily perseveres will endure.

I know the Book of Proverbs says, "Go watch the ant, you who are not trying hard enough."

There was once a Soldier who was forced to hide from his enemies in an abandoned cement silo. He had been on the run for days. Exhausted and weary, he almost gave in to hopelessness. As the Soldier looked down on the barren floor, there appeared a tiny ant. The insect was carrying a crumb of bread and was attempting to climb up the high, steep wall. The crumb kept falling, but the ant refused to give up.

The man counted the ant's attempts to get the crumb up to a window to the outside.

The crumb fell seventy times to the ground. The Soldier watched in awe as each time the ant again and again patiently shouldered its burden and continued to try. The ant persevered. On the seventy-first time the insect reached the top. That tiny ant's persistence gave the man courage and hope to keep on trying. Two days later, he was free.

God sent His grace with a great example of encouragement in the form of a tiny ant.

Everyone has a reason for being here. If you have breath in your body, you have a goal yet to achieve. The best goal God recognizes is the goal you have that will help and uplift someone else. Soldiers, we want you to know how much we appreciate your unrelenting sacrifices and lasting contributions that make the world a better place. You are making a difference.

God blesses those who keep on trying. First your task will seem impossible. Then, it will be difficult. Finally with persistence it will get done!

It is not easy, by any means to go on, especially if we have been discouraged and put down in the past. It is at the time, when our heart beats the loudest, and our hand starts to shake, that we should try and try again. Never quit, never relinquish, and by no means give up... we will achieve through perseverance.

Even through adversity, keep on trying. God is with the person who refuses to quit. Eventually you will reach your destiny.

The hand of God does not always call the qualified. Most of the time, He chooses the ordinary and steadfast perseverant. He will give us the equipment we need to accomplish and will direct our path if all is done for His glory.

An admirer once approached famed author, Harriet Beecher Stowe and asked if she could have her autograph on the book she wrote, "Uncle Tom's Cabin." Mrs. Stowe said humbly, "God wrote it. I merely did His dictation." This book inspired a president and a nation to do away with slavery.

Dear Soldiers, if you only knew the love that God has for you and how magnificent you are in His sight, you would never be discouraged again. I pray that see yourself through His eyes and you will be amazed at how much more assured you will become each day. God can reveal to you your true potential.

You have so much talent and the ability to do anything. Just never give up. He made each person to accomplish something great. And I know each one of you was born with a great capacity for giving. God placed a great ability for achievement in you. Just keep on, keeping on and you will reach your goal with sure success.



Write to Catherine Galasso-Vigorito, nationally syndicated columnist and author of "A New You, Words to Soothe the Body, Mind and Spirit," in care of Connecticut Guardian, 360 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06105-3795 or e-mail her at anewyou@snet.net © Catherine Galasso, 2005

Connecticut National Guard Foundation Inc.
360 Broad St.
Hartford, CT 06105-3795

Dear Foundation,

My name is Henry Alexander Garcia, and I have recently been bestowed the honor of receiving the SGT Felix M Del Greco Jr. memorial scholarship. I sincerely thank you for awarding me this scholarship.

I am fully aware of the sacrifice SGT Del Greco gave on April 9th 2004, when he died from an IED and small arms fire. Being the first Connecticut National Guardsman to die in Iraq, it brought the war home to many Connecticut residents. It brought reality home to many, and showed them the lack of mercy involved in war. SGT Del Greco, along with all other American military troops, work to keep our freedom intact and to protect our way of life for every single American.

Unfortunately, many Americans do not realize the dedication and sacrifice that military forces go through to make sure that Americans sleep soundly at night. The death of SGT Del Greco forced Connecticut residents to realize the sacrifice and dedication involved, and helped them to appreciate the hard work of the military, and to realize what the military does for us.

SGT Del Greco was an ordinary American citizen, just like everyone in the military. They, however, took on the duty of protecting the rest of us. For that, they should all be honored for their achievements.

For me to be picked for this scholarship means a lot to me. Even though I am not in the military, I realize the sacrifice involved, because of the fact that my parents are in the military and have or are serving in Iraq.

My mother is the commander of the 141st Medical Company serving in Iraq.. I have thought of what it takes to be a soldier, and what those soldiers are doing in Iraq right now.

Even though I cannot really know what soldiers go through, I can at least appreciate what they are doing, and honor them for it.

Again, I thank you for selecting me as the recipient of this scholarship.

SINCERELY,
HENRY ALEXANDER GARCIA

**For Bradley Airbase
BRAC Information,
visit the NGACT website at
www.ngact.com**

Visit the
Connecticut Guardian
on-line at www.ct.ngb.army.mil



HANDYPERSON HOTLINE





"CARRYING THE HOMEFRONT"

**SERGEANT MAJOR
TOBY P. CORMIER**
Ph: 860-441-2984
Cell: 860-209-0770
toby.cormier@ct.ngb.army.mil

**The Connecticut National Guard
in collaboration with
the Connecticut Department of Veterans' Affairs
invites you to**

CONNECTICUT CARES FOR ITS OWN

2005

**Saturday, October 1st, 2005
at the Veterans' Home, Rocky Hill, CT
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Call the Family Program Office at 800-858-2677

**Do you have a question about your VA Benefits?
Are you in need of medical treatment?**

**Are you in need of re-adjustment counseling?
Don't have a job?**

Call the Family Program Office at 800-858-2677



"THERE IS NO QUESTION... WE HAVE THE BEST FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM IN THE GUARD!"

Family Assistance Center locations

Family Assistance Centers are set-up in the following armories around the state:

Waterbury Armory
64 Field Street, Waterbury, CT 06702
(203) 574-2406 Toll Free 866-347-2291
Staff Sgt. Jonathan Duffy

Manchester Armory & AVCRAD
330 Main Street, Manchester, CT 06040
(860) 646-0780 Toll Free 866-347-2286 Capt. Lauri Tinelle

103rd FW, Bradley ANG Base
Bldg 8, East Granby, CT 06026
(860) 292-2730 Mrs. Donna Rivera

Hartford Armory
360 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06105-3795
1-800-858-2677
Mrs. Kim Hoffman, Mrs. Michelle McCarty, Mrs. Karen Somes,
2LT Claude Hibbert, Mrs. Trudy Kaufman and Sgt. Jessica McKenna

Norwich Armory
38 Stott Avenue, Norwich, CT 06360
(860) 823-1342 Ext. 12 Toll Free 866-347-3357
Mrs. Andrea Lathrop

103rd Air Control Squadron
206 Boston Post Road, Orange, CT 06477
(203) 795-2983 Charlie and Jane Solomon

Newington VA Center
555 Willard Ave., Bldg. 1, 4th Floor, Newington, CT 06111
(860) 878-6745 Ms. Melissa Tetro & Sgt. Tamara Jex

Windsor Locks
Bldg. P123, Camp Hartell, Windsor Locks, CT 06096
(860) 386-4027 Mrs. Rita O'Donnell

Volunteers are needed in each facility.

Those wishing to help out can contact Mrs. Kim Hoffman, Family Program Manager at 1-800-858-2677. Any family member or loved one of a deployed soldier who has questions about benefits or deployment issues may also get answers to their question at the following email address:
kim.hoffman@ct.ngb.army.mil
Please visit our Website at www.ct.ngb.army.mil/family

Number Word Search

N	I	N	E	N	H	F	P	L	M
E	B	E	T	H	R	E	E	W	S
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ONE
TWO
THREE
FOUR
FIVE
SIX
SEVEN
EIGHT
NINE
TEN

Kids' Creative Corner

A MONTHLY FEATURE OF
FUN AND EDUCATIONAL
ACTIVITIES